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# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 27, 1925

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

No. 19.

## CHANGE TO BE MADE IN CHARACTER OF CONTENTS OF LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

Beginning with this issue the bibliographies which have been the most prominent feature of the Library Supplement to The B.A.E. News will no longer appear there. Instead they will be issued in a numbered mimeographed series called "Agricultural Economics Bibliographies". The first number of this new series is being mimeographed, and is entitled Agricultural Economics; A selected list of references.

The purpose of this change is to make each issue of the Library Supplement of more general interest to the workers in the Bureau than was possible when so large a part of each issue was taken up with a bibliography possibly of interest to one division only. The omission of the bibliographies will leave space for a larger number of items of more general interest. A mailing list will be started for the bibliography series, so those who are interested in receiving it should write and request that their names be placed on this list, which will include Bureau employees both in Washington and the field offices as well as economic workers elsewhere.

The bibliography series will provide a means for the issuance of separate parts of a comprehensive bibliography thus making the work more promptly available to investigators. For instance, the library has been working for some time on a bibliography on the Cost of Production of the various agricultural commodities. Two of these have been issued in the Library Supplement, one on the Cost of Production of Sugar and the other on the Cost of Production of Milk. It is our purpose to issue the commodity sections of this bibliography as fast as they are completed giving each a separate number in the Agricultural Economics Bibliography series. Eventually we hope that we may be able to cover the field comprehensively enough to justify the compilation of all these into a bibliography suitable for inclusion in the Bibliographical Contributions series issued by the Department Library and contributed to by the various Bureau libraries.

Another reason for inaugurating the new series is to provide a place for the issuance of bibliographies compiled in Divisions of the Bureau other than the library. Such lists will be prepared with the cooperation of the library as to form of entry, arrangement of material, etc. and will be issued in the same style as the library lists. A bibliography on Flour Milling and Bread Baking prepared in the Grain Division of the Bureau will be one of the earliest titles in the new series. Others in progress relate to the financing of the livestock industry, and government regulation of exports, covering the practice of foreign countries past and present.



## The Bureau Library

The primary function of a library is to discover and make available sources of information. The use, analysis and application of the information yielded by these sources is the concern of the specialist. The librarian is a specialist, or should be, in the technique of finding sources of information and making them available. When he or she undertakes to digest, analyze or apply this information, the field of research is entered. We have Research-librarians, of course, who do undertake to do this very thing in a special field and there is room for many more of them, but it should be recognized that one has to be an adept in the technique of finding sources of information and making them available before one can hope to qualify in the broader field of digesting, analyzing or applying specific information in a particular field.

The Bureau Library maintains an index-catalogue as its main aid in locating sources of information. In addition, the time of one assistant is devoted to the examination of the library's foreign official documents containing economic and statistical material and the recording on cards of the sources of various types of statistics on specific subjects. This work has been in progress less than a year but in time it is hoped that source books may be compiled from these cards which will save much time and unproductive effort to the investigator and the statistician. In the meantime the data collected are available to anyone who cares to use them.

Besides this the Bureau Library compiles bibliographies and reading lists of many kinds. Some of these consist of a few references only for inclusion in a letter, other longer lists bear on some special phase of a subject and are compiled for the use of an investigator working on a particular problem. Still another type attempts to cover a subject completely, but always with the effort to include only material worth examination by the investigator. Annotations are used freely in the effort to describe the material so that the user of the list need examine only what is pertinent to the work in hand. We believe that "the greater our facilities for ascertaining what has been learned and thought or tried and rejected, the more steady will be the advancement of science, since time and effort will be used for learning new facts and making new experiments rather than repeating what has already been done."

It is our purpose in each number of the Library Supplement to describe some part of the Bureau Library's work, that Bureau workers may have a better realization of the type of service the library is prepared to render.

## Field Force Helps Library Complete Its Files

The Bureau Library has been greatly helped in keeping up files of important publications by various members of the field force.

Mr. Callanan, in charge of Market News, Fruits and Vegetables Office, New York City, has been untiring in his efforts to obtain for the Library the numerous issues of Russell's Market News which were missing from the files. When he was unable to obtain a copy, he borrowed the bound volumes in order that photostat copies could be made. The Library now has a file of this publication complete from 1913 to date with the exception of one or two issues which are not even in the company's official file.



Mr. Hess, in charge, Livestock, Meat and Wool Office, National Stock Yards, Ill., sends his copy of the St. Louis Daily Livestock Reporter to the Library regularly, thus saving the price of the subscription to this paper. Other members of the Livestock, Meat, and Wool field force send papers to Mr. Whalin who sends them to the Library.

We wish to express our appreciation of this help. If at any time the Library can be of service to any member of the field force we hope that he or she will not hesitate to write to us. We will certainly do our best to help. The Bureau Library exists to serve the entire Bureau, both in Washington and in the field.

#### RECENT PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

##### Agricultural Conference. Great Britain.

The Nation and the Athenaeum for Dec. 6, 1924 contains a spirited editorial entitled "The Farmers and the Government" from which we quote as follows: "The National Farmers' Union has once again proved a thorn in Mr. Baldwin's side. Its response to the invitation to participate in the Agricultural Conference, which was a characteristic feature of Mr. Baldwin's election programme, is not the appointment of representatives but an exceedingly peremptory questionnaire. Is the Government prepared to subsidize arable farming either directly or indirectly by means of a tariff? If so, what is the maximum figure to which it is prepared to go? What assurances, finally, can be given that the bounty will be permanent, and that the unhappy experience of the Agriculture Act will not be repeated? The Union, through its President, Mr. Ryland, formulates these questions with great precision and demands "categorical replies." It is hardly likely to get them. The answer to the third question is indeed, easy enough; the National Farmers' Union is in as good a position to supply it as the Government. The answer is, None whatever. The only possible guarantee of continuity of policy in regard to agriculture or anything else is that the policy should command and retain general approval, or that it should at least be very difficult to reverse it. Neither of these conditions can be satisfied by a policy of open subsidy to agriculture...

What is it that the Government expects the Conference to do? The Conference is asked to show how the arable acreage of the country can be increased by a million acres. Unless large subsidies are contemplated -- indeed in any case -- the question is a foolish one. The extension of arable farming in Britain is not a problem analogous to the extension of cotton cultivation in the Sudan, in connection with which it is sensible to define a quantitative objective. The arable acreage that is practicable -- the arable acreage that is desirable -- must depend mainly on the movements of the world prices of agricultural produce, and the effect of every measure taken must be subject to that dominating influence... The whole problem has since been transformed by the recent rise in the price of wheat, which now bears substantially its true relation to general prices. The special emergency of last year has thus passed away. There is nothing whatever to-day to justify a temporary policy of subsidy. Subsidies intended to be permanent are not practical politics.



The root cause of the troubles of the farmers during the past few years has been the instability of the general price-level...For various reasons, the volume of agricultural production reacts very slowly indeed to price-changes. The boom years during and immediately succeeding the war led to a great increase in the area under cereals, especially in the exporting countries. An excess productive capacity was thus developed, the curtailment of which, when the slump came, was far slower and more painful than the corresponding process in an ordinary manufacturing industry...

A reasonable equilibrium has at last been re-established between agricultural and general prices. Monetary conditions in the United States make it fairly certain that the general trend of prices during the next few years will be upwards rather than downwards, whatever the exact monetary policy that we pursue in this country. There is therefore every reason to believe that the recent improvement in the agricultural outlook will be maintained. The chief need of the moment is to convince British farmers that this is so, to restore the confidence which the last four years have done much to shatter, not to offer them subsidies which cannot be justified to urban opinion, and which must inevitably prove precarious. The sooner the farmers realize that their industry must stand upon its own legs, and the sooner their leaders divert their minds from the political agitation, at which they have acquired considerable skill, to the problems of organization and marketing which call urgently for their attention, the better will it be for British agriculture."

#### The Agricultural Situation in the United States

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for January 1925 bears the title above. The editor, Clyde L. King, in his foreword states that "we are changing from a surplus to a deficit agricultural economy in this country. This volume brings together the essential facts on the present agricultural situation by the best agricultural economists of the country. The farm situation differs in economic position from the price situation in other industries. In other industries the price largely fixes output. In the farm industry more largely output fixes price. It is just this essential difference that makes agricultural cooperation so important to future American well-being...In this period of adaptation of farm output to domestic market needs, agricultural co-operative sales agencies will take an important place. The law of supply and demand is not an iron law which admits of no human guidance. The experience of changing both supply and demand for milk in the Philadelphia market alone points to the possibilities as to what co-operative sales agencies can do in order to guide production to its best market. For this reason one entire section of the volume is devoted to cooperation and another to fitting production to the market."

#### Agriculture and the Farmer

The Consensus for Sept. 1924 (v. 9, no.3) is devoted to a Preliminary report on Agriculture and the Farmer. The National Economic League, whose official organ The Consensus is, has recently appointed a special committee to present a report on the subject of agriculture and the farmer. As a first step towards securing the views of members of the special committee on the subject a questionnaire was drafted under the direction of Professors Thomas Nixon Carver and Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard University and Dr. A. W. Gilbert, Commissioner of Agriculture of Massachusetts, acting as a sub-committee, and sent to each member of the committee. The questions together with an analysis of the replies and the comments of individual members, compose the contents of this preliminary report.



### Alfred Marshall 1842-1924

Professor Edwin Cannan writes an appreciation of Alfred Marshall in *Economica* for November 1924. John Maynard Keynes, contributed what Professor Cannan calls a "charming sketch" of the same great economist in the *Economic Journal* for September 1924.

Alfred Marshall died on July 13, 1924. Prof. Cannan writes of him as follows:

"He would have done better for himself and for economics if he had confined himself to advancing and defending and developing what was fresh and new in his doctrine instead of including it very slowly and awkwardly among a mass of uninteresting attempts to rehabilitate traditional and often obsolete doctrines. The good, such as the idea of elasticity, would have been popularized sooner, and the bad would have been better criticised and more easily amended or rejected... His besetting sin was the amiable but ruinous vice of excessive modesty... He could not bear to say or even to think that he had improved anything in the work of the masters... His excessive modesty makes an illogical cut in his view of the development of economic theory."

The *Economic Journal* for December 1924 contains a valuable bibliography of the writings of Alfred Marshall which the compiler, J. M. Keynes, states should be regarded as an appendix to the Memoir of Alfred Marshall in the September issue of the *Economic Journal*.

### Canada - Maritime Provinces

C. R. Fay, Professor of Economic History at the University of Toronto has an article entitled "Problems of the Maritime Provinces" in the *Dalhousie Review* for January 1925. He writes: "Each of the Maritime Provinces has distinctive resources and because they are old-settled a distinctive cultural charm, and here let it be said that the temporary economic eclipse of these provinces has not been just sheer loss. It has helped to preserve that region from the cultural death touch which has fastened upon parts of industrial England and industrial America." Prof. Fay proceeds to discuss the agricultural resources of each of the provinces in turn - Prince Edward Island with its fine potatoes and silver fox farming, New Brunswick where lumbering is the main interest and potatoes and apples provide a substantial side-line, Nova Scotia with its apples and potatoes. He writes: "Inherent economic soundness is contingent on reasonable land values. The most fruitful soil will not yield a living if it has cost too much. In Eastern Canada land values are remarkably low." Prof. Fay thinks that although prophecy is dangerous "the moment of the Maritime Provinces has arrived."

### Economic and Sociological Periodicals

The Bulletin of the New York Public Library for October 1924 contains Part 2 of the list of Economic and Sociological Periodicals in the New York Public Library. Part 1 was published in January 1923, and consisted of periodical titles only. Part 2 consists of Economic Monographs, both English and foreign and is a reference list of great value.



### Farm Relief

Frank Bohn, formerly with the New York Evening Post and later with the New York Times is the author of an article entitled "The Great Farm Rebellion; its cause and cure" in The Forum for February 1925. This article is a continuation, as far as character is concerned of one by Bellows in the October 1924 issue of The Forum entitled "Politics and Wheat" which argued the futility of attempting to bring prosperity to farmers by legislative action. Mr. Bohn points out the need for organized cooperation, more and better agricultural education and improved agricultural practice of the findings of science as the means of improving the condition of the farmers.

### History of the Silo in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Magazine of History for December 1924 contains an article entitled "History of the Silo in Wisconsin" by N. S. Fish, a member of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin.

The author states that one-fifth of the entire silo-using population is in Wisconsin and gives a graphic map of the state showing the distribution of silos in Wisconsin in 1923.

### Life of Stock Feeder and Banker

The Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for 1923 contains the "Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin Harris of Champaign County, Illinois compiled by Mary Vose Harris from the unpublished manuscript written by the subject of the sketch. The sketch contains many items of great interest from various points of view. Benjamin Franklin Harris died in 1905 at the age of 94 years. He did not keep a written record of his life in the form of a diary but his astonishing memory and the detailed account books referred to as "Day books" provide authentic records for his autobiography. His account books cover the period from 1853 until his death in 1905, and provide data on yield per acre for various crops cultivated on his large farm, wages paid his laborers, value of provisions and clothes bought, prices paid for farm implements and equipment, weight of the cattle he raised, and rate of interest he received on money he loaned.

### RECENT ACCESSIONS OF INTEREST

#### Food Supply of New England

The Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Arthur W. Gilbert, is the author of a volume entitled "The Food Supply of New England." The book is the outcome of a conference held in Boston in January 1923, called by the governors of the six New England States for the purpose of beginning a concerted study of the food question. According to the preface "The conference set itself to take an inventory of the present situation and to lay out a ten-year program for New England agriculture. A summary of the programs formulated by each commodity committee forms one chapter of this book. The work of the conference is now being actively carried on by a Continuance Committee acting through a small executive committee. New England is one economic unit. It is logical that the various agencies of the six states should work together to solve the problem."



### Law of Diminishing Returns

Dr. W. J. Spillman and Dr. Emil Lang are the authors of a volume with the title above. It is one of the New-World Agriculture series being published by the World Book Company. Part 1, by Dr. Spillman has the title "The Law of the Diminishing Increment". Part 2, by Dr. Lang has the title "The Law of the Soil." It is a translation of an article by Dr. Lang in the Landwirtschaftliche Jahrbucher, v.55, 1920.

### Prices

Dr. E. F. Warren and Dr. F. A. Pearson are joint authors of a volume in "The Price Series" being issued by John Wiley and Sons, which is entitled "The Agricultural Situation: Economic Effects of Fluctuating Prices". The authors state in the preface that the aim of the book is "to present the fundamental facts in such a way as to aid the farmer, the business man, the legislator and the student in obtaining a better understanding of the problems which each must meet."

### Public Land Policies

A new volume in the series being issued by the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities under the editorship of Prof. Richard T. Ely is by Dr. B. H. Hibbard and is entitled "A History of the Public Land Policies." The author writes in the preface "The aim has been to put into one moderate sized volume a sketch of the historical development and operations of our federal land policies." Chapter 27 is devoted to the effects of the land policies on agriculture. There is a seven-page bibliography of sources consulted.

Mary G. Lacy, Librarian.  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

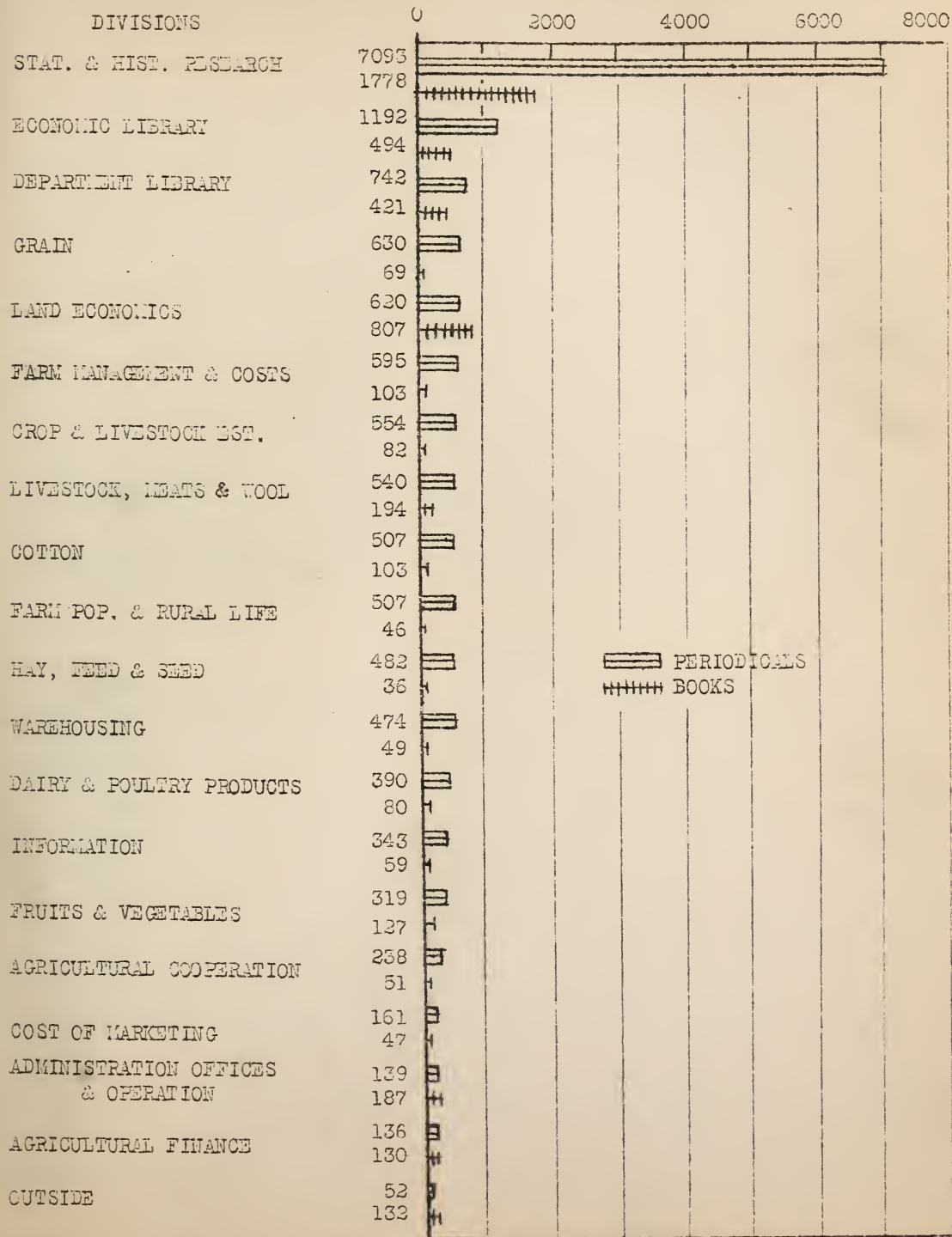


February 24, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

No. 20.

Comparative Use the Economic Library by the Various Division of the Bureau for November, December and January 1924-25, as Shown by Circulation and Special Requests.





Feature of this Issue: PERIODICAL WORK IN BUREAU LIBRARY

Comparative Use of the Economic Library by the  
Various Divisions of the Bureau.

The graph on the front page is based on an actual count of the circulation and special requests at the Periodical Desk and the Loan Desk (books) in the Bureau Library during the last three months, November and December, 1924, and January, 1925. It is of interest to note that every division in the Bureau makes some use of the library, - the greatest use being by those divisions doing the most research and the least by those concerned with operation and administration, as was to be expected. It was also of much interest to observe the steadiness of this use as the figures kept separate for each of these three months showed very little change from month to month. It was not practicable to bring this fact out in the graph as the three months' period was so short. There would be more significance to the variation if we had figures for all twelve months.

It should be remembered, however, that figures alone can never tell the story of a library or measure its usefulness. The filling of one request may take hours of work or even days or weeks if the compiling of a bibliography is involved, and in another case may involve only the charging of a book. The figures however do give a comparison of the use of the Library by the different divisions of the Bureau and serve as a certain sort of measure (in the absence of a better one) of the activity of the two service desks.

Periodical Work.

The Bureau Library receives and records approximately 1800 periodicals, a large number of which circulate. Each regular circulation represents four processes: (1) the entering or recording of the periodical when received, (2) charging it to the individual or office to which it goes, (3) discharging it when returned, (4) filing it on the shelves.

Each special request (this covers the cases when a periodical has to be withdrawn from the regular circulation to fill an urgent and immediate need) involves five steps: (1) the requesting of the periodical from the person who has it in the course of the regular circulation, (2) the charging of it to the person putting in the "special request", (3) the filing of a duplicate of the special request in the "follow-up" system, (4) the discharging of it when returned by the "special" borrower, and (5) the recharging to the person from whom it was withdrawn for the "special" service.

There are various ways in which this work with periodicals can be improved by the cooperation of borrowers. Some of them may be enumerated as follows:

Advance notice	When possible in cases where extended files are to be used or the late issues of a number of periodicals bearing on a certain subject are wanted, it would help greatly if a day's notice or even a few hours' notice were given to Miss Gill or one of the assistants at the Periodical Desk. When a request like this comes in the midst of entering the morning's mail, and the user wants the periodicals at
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once, the daily routine work has to be stopped in order to collect the periodicals from those to whom they may be charged on regular circulation. The result is delay in getting out the day's mail and many users may be inconvenienced.

Cross name off yellow slip When a borrower has finished with a magazine and puts it in the outgoing mail box to be returned to the Library it is important to cross off his or her name on the yellow slip. If this is not done there is more than a possibility that it may be sent back to the borrower a second time, though we try to prevent this happening.

Prompt handling The efficiency of the whole system of handling periodicals is dependent upon the cooperation of the borrowers in handling library periodicals promptly. It is not practicable to maintain a follow-up system for all the periodicals regularly circulated. We do maintain one for all "special requests." If periodicals become stalled on the desk of a person who is out of town or for the time being too busy to use them, every other borrower whose name follows on the circulation list, suffers. We earnestly request prompt handling. If periodicals cannot be finished within two days they should be sent on and such as are needed be asked for later after the regular circulation is finished.

Price Bibliography A large proportion of the reference questions which come to the Periodical Desk relate to prices and many users of the Library do not seem to know of the Index to Some Sources of Current Prices compiled in the Library two years ago. Greater use of this would often save time as definite sources of current prices of several hundred commodities are listed, as well as the markets from which the prices are quoted. The Library has on hand a limited supply of this bibliography and will be glad to give a copy to any one whose work will be aided by its use.

Periodicals received in Divisions The Library would be glad to know what periodicals are received direct and filed in the Divisions. Some of the Divisions are very kind in keeping us supplied with this information and we are most grateful. We believe, however, that other Divisions do not realize how useful this information may sometimes be to the Library. A reference to a Division file may sometimes enable us to answer a question promptly that would otherwise take hours because the Library copy may be at 7th and B or some other outside office or a periodical may have to be borrowed from another library because our copy is at the bindery.

Care of Periodicals It would probably be a surprise to the users of the Library to know how much time has to be spent in mending papers and periodicals torn in use, and in correspondence necessary to obtain copies to replace those lost in the Divisions. One of the greatest services the Library can perform for the Bureau is that of making sure that files are complete so that price sequences can be obtained without break when needed. If papers are lost in circulation or so mutilated accidentally as to make replacement necessary this service becomes very difficult because many of the price sheets we receive and file go out of print almost immediately and it is impossible to obtain a new copy. Needless to say wilful mutilation or clipping of a library book, periodical, or paper is contrary to a Federal Statute (U. S. Stat. v.20, p.171) and is a penal offense.



Quicker service can be obtained and time saved at other desks  
Telephone in the Library if Branch 479 is asked for whenever any ser-  
Branch 479 vice in connection with periodicals is wanted.

### NEW BOOKS

#### Agricultural Cooperation.

A notable work on "Agricultural Cooperation in its Application to the Industry, the Business and the Life of the Farmer in the British Empire" (London, 1925) has been received in the library. It contains (1) an introduction by Sir Horace Plunkett, (2) the report of the Conference on Agricultural Cooperation held at Wembley, July 28-31, 1924 and (3) a survey of agricultural cooperation in the Empire. Sir Horace Plunkett in his introduction explains at length the purpose of the Conference and its relation to the Horace Plunkett Foundation. He reviews the salient features of the outstanding addresses at the Conference. One of these was that of the Prime Minister of Saskatchewan (the Rt. Hon. C. A. Dunning) in the course of which was embodied a resolution formulating a definite agricultural policy which would give to co-operation its proper place. This resolution was passed unanimously. It reads as follows: "That a prosperous and progressive agriculture is essential to Empire wellbeing; That agricultural prosperity depends fundamentally upon the fulfilment of three conditions:-

- (1) the application of scientific knowledge under the guidance of the State, to the farming industry;
- (2) the voluntary organization of farmers for business purposes on co-operative lines; and
- (3) a reconstruction of social life in the country, with a view to removing the disparity between the respective attractions of town and country."

Sir Horace recapitulates the arguments for a rapid development of agricultural cooperation "not only in scattered efforts for the benefit of particular communities, but also as a movement aiming at the political, economic and social advancement of agriculture in the English-speaking world." He writes: "The Trustees were aware, and the Survey of Agricultural Co-operation in the Empire clearly proves that, taken as a whole, the movement is sporadic, fitful and largely fortuitous. Too often, in its functioning, it embraces but a minute fraction of the agricultural business to which it might be beneficially applied. The cause of its backwardness is probably to be found in the Farmer's fatal belief in political panaceas for economic ills. The Conference, on the other hand, was remarkable for its reliance upon self-help made effective by organization - if I may borrow a definition of co-operation from the industrial movement. No demands were made for state assistance which any government would not readily concede. Governments were asked to remember, and act upon, a principle impressed upon the farmers, that the improved husbandry they taught would be far more likely to be practised in communities co-operatively organized. There was no mention of protection, bounties or subsidies - not even of Imperial Preference! In one other respect the Conference broke fresh ground. The men recognized the vital necessity of a more advanced social and intellectual life in the countryside. The women contended that the right organization of farming business was needed in order to foster the coöperative spirit,



without which that better life could not be created, and to provide the means without which it could not be sustained."

"The Survey of Agricultural Cooperation in the Empire" edited by Mr. Karl Walter, Secretary of the Conference, gives statistics and other data for cooperative organizations in England and Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and the Crown Colonies.

### American Economic History

Harold Underwood Faulkner, Assistant professor of history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the author of a volume entitled "American Economic History" consisting of more than 700 pages.

There is a good index and the "notes for further reference" and the "Selected readings" at the end of each chapter furnish valuable bibliographical material. The Selected readings the author states "were chosen not alone for their excellence in throwing further light on the subject matter of the chapter, but also for their availability in the average library. In general they have been listed in the order of their value as supplementary reading, except that source books are always placed at the end." There are chapters of especial interest on Colonial agriculture, Agriculture from the close of the Revolution to the Civil War, The Agrarian revolution, and Recent Economic tendencies.

### Cotton

The associate editor of the Daily News Record, M. D. C. Crawford is the author of a book recently received in the library, entitled "The Heritage of Cotton." The author states in the foreword that the volume "is a human record of a great fiber that has played a large part in the civilization of two hemispheres and across more ages than modern civilization may safely span... Cotton was ancient in India centuries before Caesar conquered Britain. There was a trade in cotton between the Orient and Europe at least as early as the Crusader... Those are great traditions not alone in the accomplishment of loveliness in fabrics but in the spirit of workmanship and the underlying significance of effort, that are of incalculable value to us at this particular period. If I may, therefore, through these pages induce men to look again upon cotton as one of the subtlest mediums of art; if in some measure I may direct the thoughts of manufacturers and laborers to a better understanding of the psychological value of interest in work, I shall be amply repaid for my efforts."

72 CS42

### Cotton in South Africa

W. H. Scherffius and J. du P. Oosthuizen are joint authors of a volume recently received with the title above. The work is designed as a handbook for cotton growers having special reference to South African conditions and as a text-book for the use of students. It contains frost and rainfall maps of the Union of South Africa. 72 Sch25

### Farm Life Abroad

Dr. E. C. Branson, Kenan professor of rural social economics at the University of North Carolina, is the author of a volume just received entitled "Farm Life Abroad." The author spent a year in 1923 and 1924 in Germany, Denmark and France studying (1) the farm people, farm homes and villages, farm



systems and farm practices, (2) country communities, institutions and agencies, and (3) standards of living in the rural regions of these three countries. The book is meant for popular reading and the chapters or "letters" are in simple narrative form with a minimum of statistics "and are designed to reach the readers, thinkers and leaders of the State of [North Carolina] and to center their attention upon the things essential to a satisfying farm civilization." The volume makes delightful reading and the enticing bibliography at the end seems to point the way to other pleasant paths in this field of knowledge. (281.2 B73)

#### Food Manufacturing and Tobacco Products Industries

The Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs is publishing a series of economic monographs on the industries of New York City and its environs, some of which are of interest to us. The Bureau Library has received the Food Manufacturing Industries by Faith M. Williams and the Tobacco Products Industry by Lucy Winsor Killough. The slaughtering and meat packing establishments, the bakeries and the sugar refineries are studied in the first of these and the factors affecting the distribution, growth and movement of the food manufacturing industries and their probable future discussed.

#### Political Geography

Dr. Isaiah Bowman, Director of the American Geographical Society of New York, is the author of the New World: Problems in Political Geography, which has been recently revised and enlarged by a supplement on "The Situation of the United States" and other matter. This work is exceedingly rich bibliographically and contains brief evaluations of geographic material. Dr. Bowman speaks of Dr. O. E. Baker's "Land utilization in the U. S." as "an unusually well balanced and able statement of the land and population problem." A summary of "Principal treaties and agreements, 1814-1920" is a useful feature also, as are the bibliographies of the various countries studied. 331 B68W rev. ed.

#### Wholesale Terminal Markets

An interesting recent accession to the library is the Annual report of the Commissioner of Public Markets of the City of New York which contains a Report on Municipal Wholesale Terminal Markets and their Relation to the Food Problem. A graph is given showing the total revenue for each of the years 1918-1923 and statistics showing quantities of food arriving in New York 1923, by months. Separate tables are given for fruits, vegetables, dairy products, live poultry and meats.

#### PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST.

##### Agricultural Cooperation in Denmark.

The International Labour Review for January 1925 reviews Mr. Christensen's Department Bulletin No. 1266 as follows: "A complete account, by a well-known authority, of the Danish agricultural co-operative movement. Facts and statistics are reviewed and illustrated by graphs. Each type of production (dairy, bacon, egg, cattle export) is described, and the principal associations, their history and present position, noted. Points brought out by the author are the peculiar absence of legislative 'backing' to the movement, the unlimited financial risk of the members of an association, the strong local democratic govern-



ment which probably counteracts that risk, and the competition between selling agents in foreign markets; there are no national selling 'pools'. In spite of this, the author claims, Danish produce dominates certain markets, apparently by its standard quality."

### Agricultural Tariff

"The Economics and Politics of the Agricultural Tariff" is the title of an article by Clarence A. Wiley of the University of Texas in the December 1924 issue of the Southwestern Political and Social Science Quarterly. The author shows the utter failure of tariff so far to protect the farmer because either only those products of which he had an enormous surplus were protected or the duties were <sup>so</sup> indiscriminately placed that they had no effect one way or the other on the farmer.

### Chinese Rural Economy

A Survey of Chinese Rural Economy was undertaken by the committee on Credit and Economic Improvement, appointed by the China International Famine Relief Commission in 1922. This Survey was attempted in order to determine if possible "what the International Committee should do to ameliorate the economic conditions under which so many of the people in the country live, and which are a very important contributing factor to the suffering due to famine, and to carry out ameliorative measures." Twenty-two different institutions were asked to cooperate in this investigation. The work and experiences of the Tsing Hua Survey were written up by Carroll B. Malone in the Chinese Social and Political Science Review for October 1923. The results of the investigation including tabulations of various kinds were written up by J. B. Tayler in the same review for April 1924. The size of holdings is given, average ages of workers, percentage of income derived from farm produce, the diet of a North China farming family in terms of vitamins, proteins, calories, etc., wages, cost of living and many other factors of significance.

### Cooperative Marketing Finance.

John M. Chapman of Columbia University has published an article entitled "Cooperative Marketing Finance" in the December 1924 issue of the Political Science Quarterly. He states that the organization of cooperative marketing associations has made necessary many changes in the methods of financing the marketing of agricultural commodities." The so-called middlemen do not have as large a share in financing as under the older system. This burden is being assumed in part by the cooperative associations. The commercial banks continue to supply the great bulk of the funds for this purpose, and, as already noted, the credit is advanced to a greater extent to associations who in turn provide the growers with funds upon delivery of their crops. The financial unit under this system has increased greatly in many cases as regards the size of the individual loans made by banks, hence there are fewer borrowers to deal with. The increase in the size of the loans has made it necessary to go into the larger financial centers where the banks can lend in greater amounts, and even then, the larger city banks can not provide the funds single-handed. Syndicates have been formed in which several banks were brought into the transaction. Since the associations have, as a general rule, no capital stock, it is necessary to provide efficient methods for handling the commodities so that the lending banks may be properly secured at all times. The interest rate has been reduced in many instances



thanks to larger units and to the fact that other financial markets can be relied upon more extensively. Further changes are to be found in the methods of financing and disposing of mortgaged crops and the postponement of final settlement to the farmers for their crops which are marketed through the associations.

Banks were at first slow in many sections of the country to take hold of the problems of financing the marketing associations. The associations, organized for the most part without capital stock and lacking experience in financing, found it difficult in the beginning to secure all the funds they needed. In order to encourage the movement and to assist the farmers, the Federal government through the War Finance Corporation offered to advance funds to the associations. Although the actual amount supplied was small when compared to the total needed, it had a desirable effect. It is believed that the larger city banks understood and sympathized with the movement before the idea was accepted by the country banks. In many places the associations find it increasingly easier to secure funds in large amounts both among local and large city banks. The local banks are more likely to adhere to a six per cent rate, or even higher in states where the legal rate is above six per cent, whereas the rate charged by the banks located in the financial centers tends to fluctuate with the market, not infrequently being below five per cent. Rates charged by the Federal intermediate credit banks are sometimes above and sometimes below the rates charged by the larger banks. They are lower in most cases than those charged by local banks.

Cooperation between the associations and banking institutions has already reduced the cost of credit for marketing purposes where the associations are being properly managed. It should tend to lessen the amount of store credit used, which is generally very costly, to encourage the farmers to adopt more scientific methods of accounting, and to improve their methods of managing and financing their operations. So far it has done very little in the way of providing funds for the production of crops but looks primarily to the marketing stage. While marketing associations have brought about many desirable improvements in the methods and costs of marketing commodities, the farmers have been led to expect too much in not a few instances and have consequently been disappointed with the results. Where this state of mind prevails it has tended to hinder the development along sound lines. Cooperative marketing is not a 'cure-all' for all the financial ills of the farmer. It is good only so long as it is operated along sound business lines and in harmony with existing financial machinery."

#### Grower - Group control

Matthew Tobriner of Leland Stanford University is the author of a fifteen page article entitled "Grower-Group Control" in the December 1924 issue of the University Journal of Business. The author considers first the arguments which favor grower-group control, and second, those that condemn it. He writes:

"Grower-group control at any rate is sound in theory. Content on the part of the growers is said to come only with control by the growers, and control is said to be feasible only in local groups: so the federated association based upon farmer-run local associations is approved. But the centralized associations also have their side of the story. In brief, their argument is this: control by the farmers brings not content but discontent; it has in the past, in fact, wrecked many associations. Content on the part of the growers



can be attained by better and safer means than control by the growers. Hence, the theoretically ideal grower-control is unworkable in practice... Of eight co-operative managers interviewed, two only claimed grower-group control was fundamental for an association. Needless to state, both of these managers who favored grower-group control headed associations of the older type, based on grower participation. But even these managers realized that grower-group control was 'cumbersome, although it allowed farmers to run their own business and have a voice in their own affairs.' The consensus of the association manager's opinions is against allowing farmers to manage co-operatives in any very great degree.

"In summary, it will be revealed that the consensus of the marketing authorities' opinion was in favor of grower-control. Here, then, is a clear difference of opinion between the men of practice and the men of theory. Both groups are partly right. Grower-group control has great advantages and serious disadvantages. It makes for the contentment of the grower; it allows him to participate in cooperation; it serves as the logical basis for the development of a spirit of cooperation... But it exposes the association to the danger of internal friction and even disintegration... Yet, as a general proposition, grower-group control is to be desired. In a true co-operative association, based upon growers' participation in marketing, it is indispensable. However, when growers organize not as much to co-operate in marketing as to secure higher prices, control can be placed in the hands of a remote agency, and the farmers will not necessarily become dissatisfied. By artificial means the contentment of the farmers can be maintained, and then grower-group control is not necessary."

### New Periodical

The first issue of Ibero-Amerikanisches Archiv has been received in the library. It is a quarterly and began publication in October 1924. Its purpose is to stimulate interest in and to aid in the solution of Spanish-American agricultural, economic and historical problems. Contains original contributions, shorter articles on subjects of current interest, bibliography of recent publications in Spain and Spanish-America, as well as a less detailed list of publications on questions dealing with Spanish and Spanish American problems.

### The Problem of Agriculture.

An article with the title above, written by Rexford Guy Tugwell, appeared in the December 1924 issue of the Political Science Quarterly. The author reviews the lack of equilibrium which periodically exists between the values of farm products and those of manufactured products to show that agriculture is less able than other industries to resist price declines, and that any solution of the agricultural problem must contain a correction of this condition. He takes up in detail the several proposals which have been made for the relief of agrarian distress in recent years, and discusses them critically. He thinks that the Joint Commission of Agricultural Inquiry presented a report which constitutes a mine of new information which will have a continuing usefulness for many years. He criticizes severely, however, the inferences drawn by the Commission which he considers an anti-climax when the excellent presentation of the fact material is considered. He thinks that the farmer's position can be bettered only by means calculated to enable him to resist price declines as manufacturers do, and that the "fact-finders overlooked the most important area of their inquiry and the Commission its opportunity for a significant contribution to economically sound statesmanship," by its failure to point this out and make recommendations to that end.



The author then proceeds to a discussion of the Report of the National Agricultural Conference and the McNary-Haugen bill and closes by writing: "We may seek to make progress at the expense of our fellows; but in the modern interrelated world we shall not find it. What is needed is the statesmanship that looks across industrial lines, even across national boundaries, and legislates for the welfare of the peoples."

#### Review of 1924

The Manchester Guardian Commercial has published a special number dated Jan. 29, 1925 devoted to a "Review of 1924". It contains many items of interest, among them the following: The Economic World in 1924 by Edwin Cannan; Production and Employment by J. W. F. Rowe; Paving the Way to Europe's Recovery by Sir A. J. Salter, Director Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations; France's Increased capacity for Production; Canada's Small but High Priced Crops; Australia's Wool and Wheat Records; "Outside" Sources of Raw Cotton by J. A. Todd.

#### Rural Problems in the United States.

The Edinburgh Review for January 1925 contains an article by Sir. Henry Rew entitled "Rural Problems in the United States" based upon Dr. Baker's "Land Utilization in the U. S." Dr. Gray's "The Utilization of our Lands" and Dr. Ely's "Elements of Land Economics" and the publications of the Institute for Research in Land Economics. He writes in part: "In 1880 the [U.S.] census first discriminated between town and country dwellers, and in that year the rural population were 71.4% of the total. In 1920 the proportion had fallen to 48.6. That fact represents a very definite turning point. It swings the balance of political power from the country to the towns. Unless all the lessons of history are belied, the swing will continue with increasing impetus. The endless economic feud between industrialism and agriculture - between consumers and producers of food - takes a new aspect in a democratic country when the majority shifts over to the other side. The implications of the change will become apparent very slowly, but they will dominate the future... At a convention of real estate brokers, held at Madison, Wisconsin, last February, Dr. Wehrwein stated that farm-lands were reverting to forest and brush at the rate of a million acres annually, that increases occurred only in the semi-arid lands of the West, and that the extent of unimproved land in farms was increasing in all but twelve States.

"The wholesale abandonment of farm lands in the face of increasing population is an economic phenomenon, the explanation of which is not immediately apparent. In some measure it is the continuance of a secular movement which is characteristic of large countries in process of settlement. In the United States the westward trend in the course of a century has shifted the centre of population from the 78th to the 86th meridian. Farmers from the Atlantic seaboard have relinquished their farms to take up others in the path of progress, and there have not always been successors willing to occupy the deserted holdings. This movement, however, belongs rather to the past than the present, and there are few unoccupied farms in the Eastern States. A more influential reason is given in a valuable article on land utilization written by Dr. L. C. Gray, in collaboration with members of the staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and of the Forest Service.



"Land settlement no longer consists of the spontaneous migration of population to virgin public lands of high quality. At present it is largely induced by the ceaseless activity of various classes of land-selling agencies seeking to profit by the sale of land... Experience has shown that with sufficiently strong selling methods it is possible to find buyers for land entirely unsuitable for farming. These forces and methods have resulted in the continual misdirection of land utilization and settlement.

"It is argued that this misdirection has been due to the absence of any systematic or considered policy of land settlement. 'The let alone policy of the past few decades has been a source of enormous economic waste and social misery.'...

"A problem which is regarded, at the present time and under existing circumstances, by the large majority of American farmers, as urgent and vital, is that of the distribution and marketing of their produce. Improvement of cultivation of crops and of livestock is recognized as highly important. The scientific and practical work carried on at the Federal and State experimental stations, and at the Agricultural Colleges, by a host of highly qualified and enthusiastic investigators and teachers is impressive. A full description of the agricultural and economic activities of any one of the multitude of institutions throughout the country, or a mere summary of the operations of the Federal Department of Agriculture at Washington, would be very lengthy. There is abundant evidence of great and increasing appreciation of the importance of the productive side of the farmer's business. But the distributive side, for the time being at least, is generally regarded as even more insistent...

"The whole subject of the marketing of American farm crops is of extreme interest, and the co-operative methods adopted are particularly worth consideration by English farmers, notably in regard to those products which are sold in the home markets. The literature on the subject is very voluminous, for every University and College has a staff of economists studying the subject and contributing to its examination and exposition. Space fails to give even the barest outlines of the admirable work which is being carried out in this connection.

"The rural problems of America have a closer relation to those of this country than is commonly realized. Our insular ignorance and indifference hinder us from understanding the relationship, and even to those who are well informed on transatlantic tendencies - a sparse, but happily increasing, number - the agricultural affairs of the United States appear remote from our interests and hidden from our understanding. It was unexpected, therefore, to find evidence in America of a familiarity with British agrarian questions among so many of those with whom I came in contact during a visit of a few weeks last summer... The rural problems of the United States have their counterpart in the British Isles, and on both sides of the Atlantic a better comprehension of their correlation and interaction cannot fail to help in their solution."

Sir Henry Rew discusses also the importance attached to the study of rural sociology in the United States, and describes at some length the character of the work being carried on by Dr. Galpin and his co-workers in the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life of this Bureau. He writes: "The aim of those who are seeking to promote 'better being' is, in the first place to arouse the desire for it... The work of the rural sociologist is missionary and propagandist. He has to stimulate the sentiment of social responsibility, to awaken the latent community spirit and to promote the cooperation of all members of the community in the common effort... The fundamental principle is the establishment of active community life. On this foundation all else can be built; but without that foundation the awakening of activity results in sectionalism, cliquism and eventual discord. Those responsible for the vigorous country life



movement in America have been sufficiently clear-sighted to see the rural social problem steadily, and to see it whole."

### Stabilization of Agricultural Prices.

The Journal of Political Economy for February 1925 contains an article by J. A. Estey of Purdue University, entitled "Stabilizing Agricultural Prices." After discussing the various methods of avoiding price declines in the face of a production greater than the effective demand by (1) the destruction of a part of the product (2) dumping abroad and (3) putting the excess into storage, the author states that "profound study is needed before the control of output and the stabilization of agricultural prices are likely to be even partially realized. The present spontaneous method of bringing supply into harmony with demand by the alternating effects of profit and loss is crude enough, and works infinite hardship in many cases. But nothing is gained by avoiding the difficulties which must be faced in any <sup>that</sup> program of more conscious or, if one prefers, more intelligent control. Not ~~that~~ such conscious control is to be shunned. On the contrary, it may be well worth attempting. It is quite in line with other modern developments in economic control, and is probably the path of progress. But the problem involved, partly political but predominantly economic, must be resolutely and fearlessly faced, or it will bring in its train more evils than it avoids, to say nothing of the spiritual evils of disappointment and discouragement.

"The difficulty of organizing efficiently thousands of highly individualistic agriculturists may somehow be overcome. It is astonishing what human will has done. The hardest problem will be to restrain such an organization from rushing headlong into programs that sound easy but lead nowhere. There is probably no more difficult task than to make even the most enlightened face the unwelcome complications involved in something they want very badly. How much more so the economically illiterate farmer!"

MARY G. LACY

Librarian  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

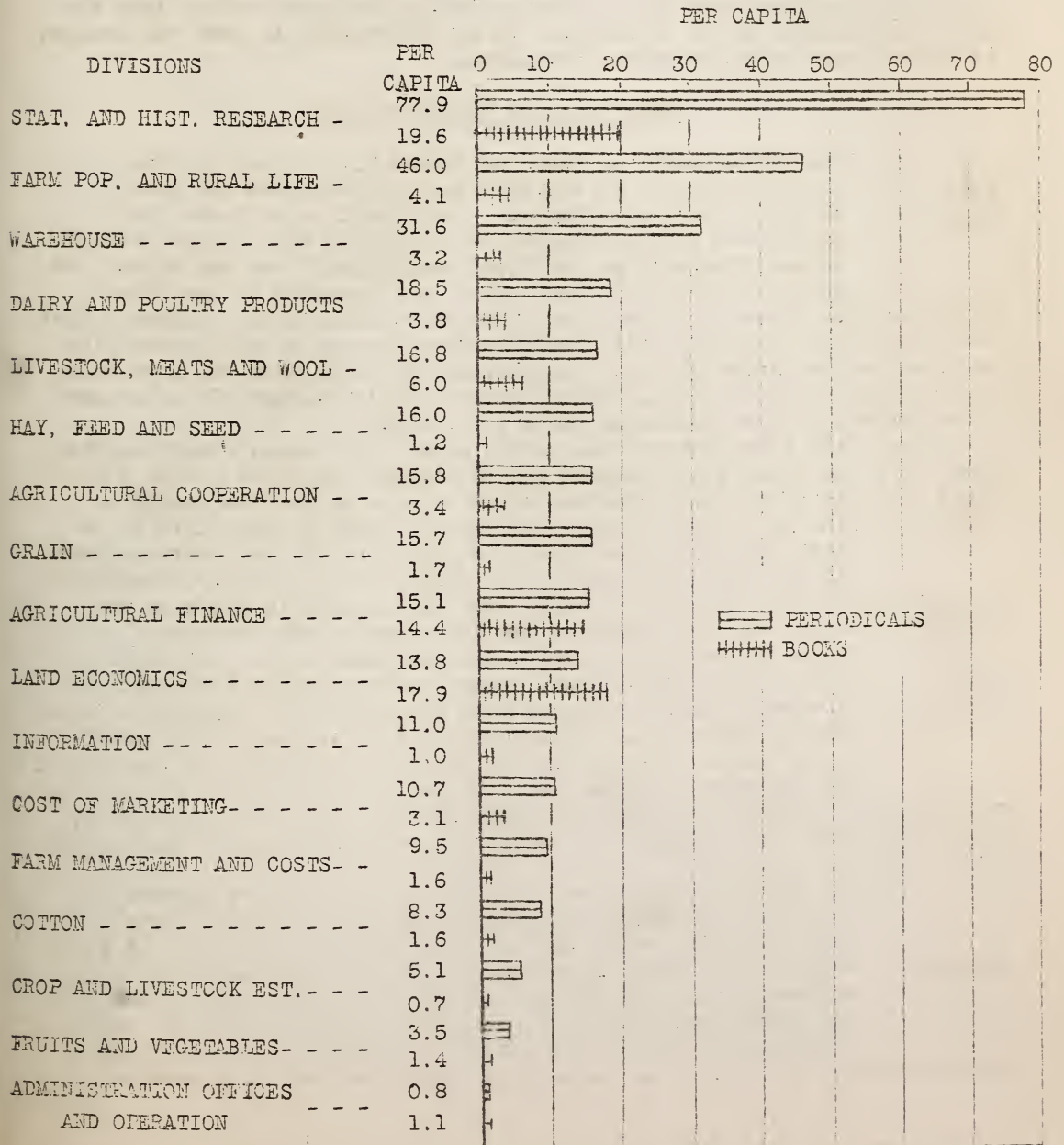
ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 31, 1925

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

No. 21

Per Capita Use of the Economic Library by the Various Divisions of the  
Bureau for November, December, and January, 1924-25,  
as Shown by Circulation and Special Requests.



Feature of this Issue: BOOK LOANS IN BUREAU LIBRARY

Per Capita Use of the Economic Library by  
the Various Divisions of the Bureau

The graph on the front page is based on the same figures as that in our last issue. This time, however, we have worked out the per capita circulation of books and periodicals in the various Divisions of the Bureau and have used that figure in making the graph rather than the total circulation to the Divisions. It is interesting to note the changes in the relative position of the Divisions.

Book Loans in Bureau Library

Loan  
Desk

The "Loan Desk", in both the Bureau Library and the Department Library is the term used to designate the desk at which books are charged. Periodicals when bound are circulated from it because after binding they become "books". Before binding they are "just periodicals" and are circulated from the Periodical Desk which was described in the Library Supplement for February. There are a few exceptions to our statement that the "Loan Desk" circulates only books because for the sake of convenient reference a few constantly used periodicals are filed near the Loan Desk. These are Crops and Markets, Federal Reserve Bulletin, Monthly Labor Review, Journal of Farm Economics and a few others.

Book  
Cards

All books have on the inside of the back cover a card bearing the book's call number and its author and title. When a book is to be taken from the stack room no matter how nearby is the borrower's office, nor for how short a time it is to be kept, the book card should be signed by the borrower and left at the Loan Desk which is in charge of Miss Mary F. Carpenter. These cards are proxies for the books and are arranged in trays on the Loan Desk in just the same order as are the books on the shelves.

Time  
Limit

There is no hard and fast limit enforced as to the length of time a book may be kept, except in the case of books much in demand and books borrowed from the Library of Congress or other outside libraries. A borrower is free to keep a book until he or she is through with it, but it is assumed that books will not be kept an unreasonable length of time, and it is urgently requested that they be promptly returned when the need for them is over. This cooperation is absolutely essential to the working out of the "no time limit" policy.

Recalls

If, however, a request comes in for a book which someone has out, a telephone request is made for its return or a recall slip is sent. If the first user can spare it, it is sent to the second borrower, and if the first user wishes to have it again later and indicates that wish to us, we put a time limit on it and request its return from the second user at the end of a stated period. In case the first user feels that in justice to his work he cannot release it we make an

effort to borrow another copy from some other library or to serve the second borrower in some other way. Each case is considered on its merits and adjustments and mutual consideration are the only inflexible rules.

Library of Congress Books Very careful time limits are kept for books borrowed from the Library of Congress or other outside libraries. The Library of Congress recalls books from us in a month if renewal is not requested and it is earnestly requested that all books borrowed from outside libraries be returned within that time if possible. If renewal is absolutely necessary in the best interests of the work in hand please request it promptly. We are very anxious to keep our credit good with the Library of Congress. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to use books borrowed from there promptly and return them promptly. The other way is not to request anything from there without an explanation of why it is wanted unless the title is such that its official relation to the work of the Bureau is obvious. Each day when our request for books from the Library of Congress is made up the person in charge has to sign a statement that the items requested are for official use. This makes it necessary for us to investigate if the title does not show the official relation of the volume to the work in hand and time is saved if the explanation is sent in with the request.

Routing New Material The list of new books received in the library published each week in The B.A.E. News, even with the additional help of the Library Supplement, does not begin to cover all the accessions to the library. It is quite a responsible bit of work, therefore, to see that newly acquired material reaches the individuals to whose work it applies. We do our utmost to provide this service, but information as to some special line of interest, of new work being undertaken or old work completed, will be appreciated and will enable us to give better service as regards the routing of new material.

Arrangement of Books on Shelves In the arrangement of books on the shelves our aim has been to make them as accessible and convenient as possible to the Bureau workers themselves as well as to the library assistants. The book stacks are open to all for each reader to make his or her own selection, but if books are taken from the shelves they should either be placed on one of the tables for the library assistant to put away or should be charged at the desk.

The volumes of statistics of foreign countries occupy about a third of the book stacks. These are arranged geographically beginning with Albania and ending with Zanzibar, as it was found most satisfactory for the workers looking for production and commercial figures for a certain country. It gives the library quite a cosmopolitan atmosphere to hear someone remark when an inquiry is made as to the whereabouts of Miss \_\_\_\_\_ "I saw her in the Dutch East Indies a few minutes ago, she may be in Spain now."

The remainder of the books are for the most part arranged according to the Department Library classification. The bulk of this collection is composed of what is popularly known in the Library as "the 280's", or the economic collections. Some of these books were bought from a fund

presented by Dr. Taylor shortly before the consolidation of the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates and the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics to form the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. In this part of the library may be found the general works on economics, cooperation, marketing, land economics, rural sociology, finance, rural credit, prices, commerce, etc. The Bureau Library has also a set of state experiment station publications which, although not so complete as the one in the Department library, is very useful for immediate reference.

There is one book stack nearest the Loan desk which contains a collection especially for reference. Here may be found all the publications, which the library owns, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the former bureaus which composed it, from bulletin number 1 of the old Bureau of Statistics, to the latest copy of The B.A.E. News. Here are also sets of the reports of the Department from 1844 to date and a complete set of department and farmers' bulletins. Bailey's Encyclopedia of Agriculture is here and the late volumes of the U. S. Statutes. On the other side of this reference stack are the ever-popular 1920 Census volumes, the dictionaries of foreign languages, and directories. The last sections are devoted to the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture. There is an especially select row of reference books on one of the tables. In order to belong to this class a book must be very large or very popular. The Produce Reporter "blue book" is there, the hotel and railway guides, Hendrick's Commercial Register of Manufacturers and others. Some of the books are so large and so popular that each must have a stand of its own, as Dun's Rating Book, Webster's Dictionary and the Rand-McNally atlases. The one general encyclopedia which we have, the Encyclopedia Britannica, has a little bookcase made especially for it. For some of the latest general reference books this Bureau must depend upon the Department Library because the small book appropriation will not allow the duplication of expensive annuals and encyclopedias.

Written requests are desirable from the library's point of view and it is perhaps needless to say that the more information given on a request for a publication the more speedily will it be obtained. The date of a bulletin, either state or government, is especially helpful. Verbal requests sent by messengers are especially unsatisfactory as they frequently reach the library in unintelligible form. The additional time needed to write the request will usually be made up with interest in the speed with which the request can be filled.

Although requests for books for personal use are gladly taken care of whenever possible, they must always be secondary to those for official use. The Library is always willing to lend books whenever there are copies not being used, but it cannot undertake to supply text books for class work or to recall a book being used in official work for the personal use of a borrower.

Branch 279 is the telephone number of the Loan Desk and all requests for books and general information will be taken care of there or referred to the proper person.

## NEW BOOKS

### Agricultural History

Readings in the Economic History of American Agriculture is the title of a volume edited jointly by L. B. Schmidt and E. D. Ross both of the Iowa State College.

It brings together special studies of present day writers rather than selections from the sources themselves. After the general introduction which seems designed to show the fundamental significance of the economic history of agriculture, the work is divided into four parts: (1) Colonial foundations, (2) Plantation and frontier, (3) the Agrarian revolution and the settlement of the far West, and (4) Reorganization and readjustment. 281 sch52

### Agriculture in Western Europe

Dr. William B. Bizzell, President of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas is the author of a series of three addresses on Agricultural Conditions in Western Europe, which were published in the monthly Bulletin of that college for Aug. 1, 1924. The first of these addresses deals with the productive aspects of agriculture in Western Europe, the second deals with the problems and policies of agricultural economics in the same region, and the third, with the cotton problem of Lancashire. Dr. Bizzell thinks that the agrarian movement is destined to exert a powerful influence on the political, economic and social policies of the world. He thinks that the "Green Rising", as Chesterton calls it has not yet reached flood tide. He thinks that the farmer population has learned the lesson of cooperation and, at last, realizes its potential strength and opportunities. He hopes this rising tide of agrarian consciousness may not carry the farmer to extremes and threaten well-established foundations of human society. If this danger can be avoided he thinks that the world-wide agrarian movement may prove a blessing to all mankind. 281 B55

### American Trade Unions

The National Bureau of Economic Research has recently published The Growth of American Trade Unions 1880-1923, by Leo Wolman. Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell, in the preface, makes the following statement:

"The trade union movement affects productivity and affects wages--that is, it affects both the size and the distribution of the national income. The varying membership of trade unions from year to year, and the proportions of all wage earners who are thus organized--the leading subjects of the following chapters--concern the general public only less than they concern employers and employees. In determining the facts on these heads as accurately as the materials permit, the National Bureau is following its policy of providing men of all shades of opinion with objective knowledge of the conditions which confront them. As in all our work, so here: we confine ourselves to stating the facts as we find them. With opinions about the promise of the danger to American life from the growth of trade unions we have no concern as an organization of investigators." 283 W83

### Canadian Cooperation

W. A. Mackintosh of the Department of Economics of Queen's University is the author of a volume, recently received in the library, entitled Agricultural Cooperation in Western Canada. This study is confined to the investigation of cooperative marketing and purchasing in the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Wheat pools are separately treated in an appendix and there is a bibliography. 280.2 M21

### Commerce of Nations

T. E. Gregory of the University of London revised Bastable's Commerce of Nations and issued it as the ninth edition in 1923. Mr. Gregory writes as follows in the preface: "Since the publication of the eighth edition of this work the Great European War has thrown the whole Tariff system of Europe into the melting pot. At the same time the development of a preferential system inside the British Empire has completely recast the economic relations between this country and the self-governing dominions. I have tried to incorporate all the latest information with regard to European and American conditions into this work, but the situation changes so much from day to day that it is difficult to keep up to date." The book was written in the first place in the belief that existing commercial policy and the doctrines respecting it are best explained by reference to their history. 286 B29C

### Commercial Policies

A new volume entitled International Commercial Policies has been received. It is based on the work with the same title written by the late George Mygatt Fisk of the University of Illinois and has been issued under his name as senior author with Paul Skeels Peirce of Oberlin as joint author. The original work has been thoroughly revised, rearranged, and many chapters entirely rewritten, according to the preface. The bibliographies have been revised and are very extensive. 286 F54I

### Economic History

Mrs. Lilian C.A. Knowles, Lecturer at the London School of Economics and Professor of Economic History in the University of London is the author of the Economic Development of the British Overseas Empire, recently received in the library. This volume deals in part 1 with the Empire as a whole and in part 2 with the Tropics and Sub-Tropics. Part 3 of the work will appear later as volume 2 and will deal with the economic histories of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa and Rhodesia. To use the author's own words "the first volume envisages the development of the primitive and mediaeval worlds within the British Empire and the second, the economic history of the modern nations of European origin." She writes also as follows: "If the British people are to understand the colonial point of view, and if they are faithfully to discharge their trust with regard to the millions of coloured races under their rule, it is essential that they should know something of the economic history of the various parts of the Empire. Practically

all history in new countries is economic history, and people never move very far from their history in one generation. Tradition is very strong, changes are cumulative and usually slow. Forms of government may alter, but people do not take rapid jumps in economic matters. It is evolution, not revolution, that the economic historian chronicles." She proceeds to show the enormous and growing importance of the British Tropics. "Leaving out India, they have in themselves become almost a new Empire within the last forty years, and it was borne in upon me that the race that controls the Tropics will control the most important economic resources of the world in the coming century. Hence it is desirable for Englishmen to know something about the history of their tropical possessions." The author states the interesting fact that the University of London has made the Economic Development of the British Empire a compulsory subject for its Bachelor of Commerce degree and the need for textbooks and the lack of them for use in that course led to the writing of this book. She says the Dominions are too busy making economic history to write it, but thinks it very important that the economic material necessary for writing history be preserved before it is too late. Reviewed also in Economic Journal, March, 1925. 131 K76

#### History of Oklahoma

A History of Oklahoma by James S. Buchanan and Edward Everett Dale has been received in the library. Two chapters of especial interest to the student of agricultural history are The Ranchmen in Oklahoma and Agricultural and Mineral Development. 138 B85

#### Land Policies

The library has recently received A History of the Public Land Policies by Dr. B. H. Hibbard. This volume is the fourth of the Land Economics Series, edited by Dr. Richard T. Ely, Director of the Institute for Research in Land Economics. The author states that his aim has been "to put into one moderate-sized volume a sketch of the historical development and operations of our federal land policies." Practically all data are from original sources and the volume is a veritable mine of information on every phase of the subject. There is a chapter on the Effects of the Land Policies on Agriculture and another which reviews and criticises public land policies in the past and sets forth the need, even now, of a federal land policy which should comprehend the welfare of the entire nation. 282 H52

#### Rural Life in Mediaeval Wales

William Rees, Lecturer in History in the University College of South Wales, Cardiff, is the author of a volume recently issued by the Oxford University Press, entitled South Wales and the March 1284-1415: A Social and Agrarian Study. This volume contains some tables of prices of grain and livestock from the late 13th to the early 15th century as well as information relating to land tenure. 131 R25

### Rural Life in Eighteenth Century Scotland

Miss I. F. Grant is the author of *Every-day Life on an Old Highland Farm 1769-1782*, published in 1924. W. R. Scott, Adam Smith Professor of Political Economy in the University of Glasgow, has written the preface, in which he commends the book very highly. The volume is based on the farm account book of William Mackintosh of Balnespick and its historical value is greatly enhanced by its having been written at the most crucial time in the whole history of Scotland, according to the author, "for by 1769 not only had the new system of agriculture, which wrought such great changes in even the settled rural life of England, and which we speak of as the 'Agricultural Revolution,' begun to permeate the wilder and more backward uplands of Badenoch, but the whole social, political and mental life of the people was being rapidly changed, owing to the systematic policy of the Government of opening up the Highlands after the Risings of '15 and '45.

"Nor is the interest of the old Account Book merely antiquarian. A sense of history, and of the vital connection of the past and the present, seems to cling about arable land more strongly than about anything else... The connection between the conditions of the past and the problems of the present must surely be closer in rural social life than in urban districts, and in the records of their economic history must lie a very special interest and value." 30.9 G76

### Rural Pennsylvania

Another volume in Macmillan's Rural State and Province Series has just appeared. It is *Rural Pennsylvania* by Ralph L. Watts, Dean and Director of the School of Agriculture and Experiment Station at the Pennsylvania State College. The other books already published in this series are *Rural New York*, *Rural Michigan*, *Rural California*, and *Rural Texas*. There are twelve chapters in the book of which the author of the book has written one. The others are written by various specialists, all of them past or present professors at the State College. 31.3 W34

### Wheat Studies

The library has received the following numbers of the *Wheat Studies* of the Food Research Institute of Stanford University, California.

- No. 1. *The World Wheat Situation, 1923-24: A Review of the Crop Year.*
- No. 2. *Current Sources Concerning Wheat Supplies, Movements, and Prices: A Select List, with Comments.*
- No. 3. *Developments in the Wheat Situation, August to December, 1924.*

RECENT PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST.

British Empire Exhibition 1925

Lieut-General Sir Travers Clarke, Chief Administrative Officer to the British Empire Exhibition, is the author of an article entitled The British Empire Exhibition - Second Phase, in the Nineteenth Century for February, 1925. He states that when the exhibition closed for the season, November 1, 1924, it was realized that it had not afforded an adequate opportunity to serious students of Empire economics. The decision to re-open in 1925 is due to the generosity of the guarantors in renewing the credit obligations they had made for the 1924 season and to the somewhat tardy recognition of the British Government of the vital importance of the exhibition.

He proceeds to a discussion of the program for 1925. The first item on it is an improvement of the transport facilities for attendance at Wembley. The Australian Commonwealth Line is discussing "excursion" boats from Australia to Wembley and other transportation companies are urged to do more to make Wembley accessible.

The chief purpose of the exhibition was a stock taking of the position of the British Empire in production, manufacturing and merchandising, to show how the Empire had stood the test of the Great War; and to indicate both the reasons for the Empire's pride in sound achievement, and the reasons for serious inquiry as to whether the most had been done with the resources at her command. Sir Travers Clarke presents briefly the situation as regards Empire production of cotton and sugar and closes by writing: "Perhaps the greatest good the Wembley Park can do in 1925 will be by its exclusively 'Empire products' policy, to show up clearly the points of weakness in our economic organization."

Canadian Statistics

Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician of Canada, has a "Note" in the March, 1925, issue of the Journal of the American Statistical Association entitled The Canadian Plan of Organization of Government Statistics. This paper is a three and one-half page summary of the paper presented at the December, 1924, meeting of the Committee on Governmental Labor Statistics of the American Statistical Association.

The Statistics Act, passed in 1913, is explained. This Act created the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and made it responsible for the statistics "relative to the commercial, industrial, social, economic, and general activities and conditions of the people." A concrete example of the way in which this organization works out is given in the case of butter and cheese statistics. The final objective of the Bureau of Statistics is said to be the publishing of a national conspectus, of which two leading vehicles of expression exist. The first is the Official Yearbook of Canada. "The second chief use of statistical synthesis is in the measurement and interpretation of the current economic trend. The Bureau prepares the essential raw materials for this task, based on wide observation and experimentation, and maintains such analyses as enable it to act as advisor to the government, and in a limited way to the public."

### Commodity Money

Gilbert H. Lewis of the University of California is the author of an article in the Economic Journal (London) for March, 1925, entitled A Plan for Stabilising Prices, in which is presented the "sound alternative" explained by Irving Fisher in his volume entitled Stabilizing the Dollar.

The plan proposed consists in keeping the general monetary system as it existed in the great majority of nations before the war, and merely substituting for gold a composite of commodities. The author illustrates his plan by selecting four basic commodities, wheat, cotton, iron, and silver, and explaining how feasible it would be to employ a paper currency convertible at all times into a composite of these.

### Cooperative Movement: A Bibliography

The Monthly Labor Review for March, 1925, contains a 31-page bibliography on the Cooperative Movement, compiled by Florence E. Parker of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It contains two sections on Agricultural Cooperation and includes references relating to both the United States and foreign countries.

### Electricity on the Farm

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for March, 1925, is devoted to Giant Power, Large Scale Electrical Development as a Social Factor. One of the most interesting parts is that which treats of rural electrification. Titles of some of the separate articles follow: The World's Experience with Rural Electrification, An Electrified Farm, The Use of Electricity in Bavarian Agriculture, The Need for Electricity on the Farm, and A Note on Rates for Rural Electric Service.

### English Grain Market Practices

Professor C. R. Fay of the University of Toronto has an article in the March, 1925, issue of the American Economic Review entitled The London Corn Market at the Beginning of the Nineteenth Century. Prof. Fay published an earlier article, entitled The Sale of Corn in the Nineteenth Century in the Economic Journal (London) for June, 1924, which deals particularly with Measure versus Weight. This earlier article is elaborated as to detail by Stanley Dumbell in the Economic Journal (London) for March, 1925. The three papers give exceedingly interesting data in explanation of the fact that in Liverpool and some other English markets grain was sold by weight before the days of grading. The means by which this was done have been more or less of a mystery heretofore. The fact that grain dealers in England dealt in what would now be called "future trading" as early as 1800 is also of interest.

## Grain Pools

The Economic Journal (London) for March, 1925, contains two articles on pooling grain. They are The Canadian Wheat Pools by Prof. C. R. Fay and The Farmers and the Grain Trade in the United States by Prof. James E. Boyle. Prof. Fay shows the importance of producer cooperatives of Canada and the consumer cooperatives of Gt. Britain being informed about each other's activities. He proceeds to give a very concise and useful history of wheat pooling in Canada and shows that the Canadian pools are so big and so much is at stake that failure is hard to imagine. "They have behind them the governments of the three Prairie provinces, which have made grants for organization and collateral security; and they have obtained from the great chartered banks a line of credit for 25 million dollars at the favourable rate of 6 per cent. The reaction of this development on British consumers is a matter of high imperial moment. It should be watched and appraised not only by the corn trade, but also by the English and Scottish Cooperative Wholesales and the Imperial Government itself." Prof. Boyle states that the purpose of his paper is to analyse and interpret the grain pooling movement so far as it applies to the United States. He presents briefly the history of grain marketing leading up to the passage of the Federal Grain Standards Act and the organization of state wheat pools, and gives devout thanks that there is no tariff wall against ideas else we might not have had Canada's gift to us of the hard spring wheat known as Marquis. He sketches also the history of industrial pools in the U.S. and shows that the great majority of them failed because of their inability to control production. He thinks that the reason the U. S. Steel Company succeeded is because it "controls absolutely the quantity and quality of the steel it makes." He vehemently affirms the "fundamental and irreconcilable differences" between the farm and the factory and points out the fact that the wheat pool markets only - it does not produce - and for this reason, added to the inelasticity of demand, he deduces the opinion that the only aim of wheat pools is to control the price of wheat. He thinks that the wheat pools cannot long survive in their present form. "They represent... but a temporary and evanescent phase of our economic evolution."

## History of the Silk Industry

The Revue Economique Internationale for Feb. 10, 1925, contains an article on the evolution of the silk industry by Henri d'Hennezel, Director of the Textile Museum of Lyons. The early history of the industry is given, dating back to China several centuries before Christ.

## Nation and Athenaeum

The Library has placed a trial subscription for the Nation and the Athenaeum, a weekly periodical edited by J. M. Keynes and published in London. It will be placed on the Periodical Reference Table in Room 308 where it may be seen by any one interested as soon as received. The continuance of the subscription will depend upon the use made of it there and statements as to its use are invited.

New Zealand Export Control

A short statement of the situation in New Zealand as regards Federal export control may be found in The Round Table for March, 1925, p. 412-414. The extension to honey and fruit of the control system of marketing is discussed and the indications are said to be encouraging.

Welsh Journal of Agriculture

The library has received volume 1, number 1, of the Welsh Journal of Agriculture, dated January, 1925. Two articles of interest to this Bureau are the following: The History of Agriculture in Wales, by C. Bryner Jones and The Human Side of the Farming Business, by A. W. Ashby.

*Mary G. Lacy*

Librarian, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 28, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

No. 22

Features of this Issue: REFERENCE WORK IN BUREAU LIBRARY  
SIGNED REVIEWS

## REFERENCE WORK IN BUREAU LIBRARY

What is Reference Work? Persons unfamiliar with libraries often ask "What do you mean by reference work?" In an effort to answer this question we have adapted the following from the best description we know of reference work contained in the Specifications for Library Service in the Federal Government, compiled by a committee of Government librarians in 1923 and used by the Personnel Classification Board in making up its final specifications:

There are various grades of reference and bibliographical work requiring varying degrees of knowledge and experience ranging from simple elementary work up to the scholarly and highly specialized performance in the higher grades of the professional service. To do reference and bibliographical work even in the sub-professional service one must have a general education equivalent at least to two years in college and in addition a knowledge of the most common reference books in English, such as the general encyclopaedias, language dictionaries, the American book trade bibliographies, general indexes to periodical literature, gazeteers, atlases, directories, etc. This knowledge of reference books can only be obtained by a course in a library school or thorough study and experience under skilled direction in a library. To do reference and bibliographical work of the professional grade the minimum basic knowledge required is represented by a college or university degree with a reading knowledge of one or two foreign languages and a familiarity with general and special reference books. Some knowledge of cataloguing and indexing is also necessary for this work.

Reference librarians are called upon to find information on a great variety of subjects which requires a broad knowledge of general and special literature. In departmental and bureau libraries of the Government requests are received for specialized information often requiring considerable research and all demanding a wide knowledge of the field of work of the department or bureau with which the library is connected and ability to understand and anticipate needs in relation to new lines of research. A few examples of the type of requests for information received in this library follow:

Typical  
Reference  
Questions

Prices of wheat in U. S. in 1825.

Area sown to wheat in European countries in 1800.

Prices of American corn in England for a series of years.

Cotton acreage in relation to prices.

Auction prices of fruit.

Shipping season of avocados and Brussels  
sprouts in California.  
World production of tin.  
Shrinkage of flour in storage.  
Miles of woven wire fencing used in U. S.  
Harvest seasons of the world.  
Valuation of a milk route in the appraisal  
of a dairy business.  
Sheep-shearing seasons.  
American legislation on sugar production.  
Weight of a gallon of cream.  
Travelling groceries.

Having given some typical questions asked of the library it may now be of interest to trace the steps taken to find the answers. Our first aid is the catalog, from which we find reference by author, title, and subject to the books filed in this library and to many which are filed in the Department Library or the Library of Congress. When the catalog fails to lead to the information, we consult the periodical indexes and subject bibliographies. When we do not find a clue to the answer to our question in the catalog or in the various periodical indexes and subject bibliographies we consult the books which we think might contain the answer. Some times the information is found readily, often

Steps Taken times it is found only after a long search, and some times it is  
to Answer not found even after a long search.

The difficulty of answering an inquiry is greatly increased by lack of information. A clear statement of just what is wanted and how it is to be used is very helpful. For instance, if a person asks for statistics of apple production in the United States in the last 10 years, and then on being given the information states that he meant to ask for statistics of "commercial crop", the search must begin again, for this is an entirely different question. A date, even if approximate, or a suggested source of information may be a great aid to the rapid finding of information wanted.

Questions which can be answered readily are handled by the Loan Desk and Periodical assistants in so far as the pressure of the work at these desks will permit. The more difficult questions involving prolonged absence from the desk and the expenditure of much time are referred to Miss Olcott and Miss Lacy.

It is not always possible for the library staff to tell from the request how important it is. It often happens, therefore, that the time spent in finding the desired information is out of all proportion to the value of the information to the user. The library staff appreciates it when inquirers add "if easily obtainable" or some such phrase, when the request is not of much importance to the enquirer. No amount of trouble, however, is too great and there is no limit to the time we want to spend on finding information of real value to the work of the Bureau.

Besides the reference work done for the Bureau staff we receive about fifty requests a month for information through the mail. These vary greatly in character and as many of them necessitate the making of a bibliography or a reading list, they will be taken up in the next issue of the Library Supplement in which we hope to feature bibliographical work.

## SIGNED REVIEWS

### Farmer's Church

The third of the Century Rural Life Books edited by C. J. Galpin has been published. It is entitled The Farmer's Church and the author is Dr. Warren H. Wilson. It is a book of religious insights without a dull word from start to finish; not ephemeral, but a book, withal, that will stand re-reading. Dr. Wilson sees an evidence of a decline of country religion in the recent large loss of farm population, for he stubbornly holds that it takes a religious motive for men to transmit from father to son an occupation so austere, exacting, and precarious as farming. C. J. Galpin.

### Price Fluctuations

In a paper entitled The Effect of Price Fluctuations on Agriculture in the Journal of Political Economy for April, 1925, Alvin H. Hansen presents the first continuous price index of farm products, covering the past 130 years, known to the reviewer. By means of this index, expressed as a ratio to a general index of the price level, he shows that since 1820 there has been an upward trend in the "purchasing power of farm products." This is explained largely by the fact that industrial and agricultural progress in the United States produced different price trends for agricultural

and for industrial products. Had the author presented graphically the price series from which his purchasing power index is derived, a downward trend in the general price level from 1790 to 1895 (excluding the war periods) would have been revealed, while the price trend for agricultural products fluctuated approximately about a horizontal trend. Since 1896 all prices have moved upward with agricultural prices at a slightly more rapid rate than general prices.

The author points out that during the past 130 years there have been several marked price depressions, during each of which agricultural prices suffered more drastic declines than did prices in general. From this he concludes that our recent price decline, 1920-22, was the result of failure of domestic demand rather than of overproduction and the European situation. It is not, however, conclusively proved that European conditions during previous price declines did not have some effect on the demand for farm products in addition to the failure in domestic demand. Furthermore, accepting Mr. Hansen's explanation of the agricultural depression as due to failure of domestic demand, it is difficult to reconcile the persistence of the depression in view of the marked revival in the industrial demand for farm products in 1923. Mr. Hansen further points out that during price depressions the farmer suffers as a property owner. Falling prices reduce his money income because of over capitalization of future incomes which do not materialize.

The author's analyses of these and other factors, although logical, need to be accepted with some caution partly because they are based on price index numbers which may be subject to continuous error, and partly because the relationships of prices, production, and money incomes are discussed almost entirely, prior to 1909, in terms of crop production, leaving out incomes from livestock production. It is possible that, as in the recent depression, livestock producers did not suffer in the same way as did crop producers. To a marked extent, livestock producers sometimes benefit from the low prices of crops. L. H. Bean.

## Sociology of Suburban Life

A new book, in a new manner, from a new view-point is The Suburban Trend by Dr. Harlan Paul Douglass, fourth to appear among the Century Rural Life Books, edited by C. J. Galpin. While it marks the beginnings of suburban psychology and the sociology of suburban life, it gets not very far away from either city or farm, for The Rural Side of the Suburban Trend neighbors in the book close to The Deliberate Decentralization of Cities. Dr. Douglass always quits when he has made his point, knowing enough to stop squeezing when the juice is out. C. J. Galpin.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIES

### Agricultural Economics Bibliographies

Bibliographies prepared in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics have, since January 1, been issued in a new series entitled Agricultural Economics Bibliographies. Four numbers have so far appeared, as follows:

1. Agricultural Economics, By Mary G. Lacy.
2. Flour Milling and Bread Making, By C. Louise Phillips and J. H. Shollenberger.
3. A Beginning of a Bibliography of the Literature of Rural Life, By Mary G. Lacy.
4. Price Spreads, By Louise O. Bercaw.

These bibliographies are selective and not necessarily comprehensive. The idea in presenting this series has been to make bibliographical work in progress available as promptly as possible. Revisions of the lists, brought up to date, will be issued from time to time under the same title and series number. In this series will also be put material which may later be combined and issued as a comprehensive bibliography such as compose the Bibliographical Contributions of the Department Library. As indicative of this type of work, a bibliography on the cost of production of agricultural commodities is in process of preparation. Two sections, one on sugar and one on milk, have already been issued in the Library Supplement to the B. A. E. News. It is planned to put these sections into the bibliographical series when they are revised, and it is hoped that when a sufficient number of commodities have been covered the sections may be combined and issued as a Bibliographical Contribution.

### Export Control and Bounties in Australia, 1924.

Export guarantee act. Assented to Oct. 20, 1924. Provides for a trust fund of £500,000 for the purpose of assisting primary production. The Treasurer is empowered to give guarantees to banks to cover advances made by them in connection with the financing of any scheme for the export and marketing of produce. The guarantee is not to exceed 80% of the market value of the produce, and may be made subject to conditions.

Dried fruit export control act. Assented to Oct. 20, 1924. Provides for a Dried Fruits Control Board to control the export, sale, and disposal overseas of dried currants, sultanas, and lexias... To meet the expenses of the Board a fund is established and will be maintained by moneys raised under the Dried Fruits Charges Act, 1924, which imposes a charge not exceeding one-eighth of a penny per pound on these dried fruits exported from Australia.

Dried fruit advances act. Assented to Sept. 9, 1924. Provides for the payment to growers of dried currants, sultanas, and lexias of advances on the 1924 crop at the rate of £1 10s. per ton for currants and £9 per ton for sultanas and lexias. The advances are payable on the quota of dried fruits allotted to growers under an approved export arrangement and are repayable with interest at 6 per cent per annum, the repayment being a charge on the 1925 crop after the costs of production and marketing of that crop have been provided for.

Dairy produce control act. Assented to Oct. 20, 1924. Constitutes a Dairy Produce Control Board to control the export, sale and disposal overseas of butter and cheese.

Dairy produce export charges act. Provides for a charge not exceeding one-eighth of a penny per pound on butter exported and one-sixteenth of a penny per pound on cheese.

Cattle export bounty act. Assented to Aug. 15, 1924. Provides for the payment to bona fide pastoralists of a bounty at the rate of 10s. per head in respect of the export from the Commonwealth, on or after 1st July, 1924, and on or before 30th June, 1925, of live cattle for slaughter.

Canned fruit bounty act. Assented to May 24, 1924. Provides for the payment from Consolidated Revenue of certain bounties on the production and export of apricots, peaches, pears and pineapples canned in the Commonwealth during the period from Nov. 1, 1923, to Sept. 30, 1924.

Hop pool agreement act. Assented to July 23, 1924. Ratified an Agreement entered into between the Commonwealth Government and the Tasmanian Hop-growers Pool, Limited, under which the Government makes an advance of 2s. per lb. on 2,558 bales of hops shipped to London. The rate of interest payable by the Pool on the advance is 6-1/2 per cent.

(Taken from Jour. of the Parliaments of the Empire, Jan. 1925)

#### Titles - Importance of Proper Wording

Dr. E. W. Allen's lecture, entitled The Publication of Research, has no doubt been read by many of the staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics since it was issued in mimeographed form. One of its readers was so much interested that he telephoned and asked if we would give a summary of the articles on the choice of titles to which Dr. Allen referred, as it was a subject in which he was greatly interested, and he felt sure that other members of the Bureau Staff would be also. We have, therefore, compiled the following list of the articles referred to, as there was not time to make the summary for this issue:

Bishop, W. W. The record of science. (Science, v.56, p.205-216, Aug.25,1922.)

A forceful presentation of the place of bibliography as the foundation of research.

Donaldson, H. H. More complete titles. (Science, n.s. v.45, p.190, Feb. 23, 1917.)

The author inquires whether there is any valid objection to incorporating in the titles of articles the names of animals used in the investigation.

Fulcher, Gordon S. Scientific abstracting. (Science, v.54, p.291-295, Sept. 30, 1921.)

Gudger, E. W. On the proper wording of the titles of scientific papers. (Science, v.60, p.13-15, July 4, 1924.)

Urges authors and editors to write such clear and definite titles as will make for the quick and accurate cataloguing and hence the ready accessibility of their papers.

Proper wording of titles. (Anatomical Record, v.24, p.379, Jan. 1923. Abstract.)

Oberly, Eunice R. Abstracts and titles of scientific articles from the librarian's standpoint. (Science, n.s. v.54, p.491-492, Nov.18, 1921.)

A strong plea for such clear and definite titles as will enable the librarian or bibliographer quickly and accurately to catalogue the article so that the investigator must find it in his search for the literature.

Stevens, Neil M. The obligation of the investigator to the library. (Science, n.s. v.52, p.223-225, Sept. 3, 1920.)

The work of the librarian is important to the investigator not only in making the results of previous researches available but in the attempt to insure present results being available in the future. Does not deal specifically with titles.

Walker, K. C. Bibliography and research. (Science, v.56, p.418, Oct.13,1922.)  
Comment on article by W. W. Bishop in Science for Aug. 25, 1922.

#### NEW BOOKS

##### Canada. Royal Grain Inquiry Commission.

In May, 1923, the Dominion Government of Canada appointed the Royal Grain Inquiry Commission "to inquire into and report upon the subject of handling and marketing of grain in Canada and other questions incident to the buying, selling and transportation of grain; and in particular, but without restricting the generality of the foregoing terms, upon the following matters: 1. The grading and weighing of grain; 2. The handling of grain in and out by country elevators and from country points; 3. The operation of terminal, public and private elevators; 4. The mixing of grain; and 5. The disposition of screenings." The report of this commission has just appeared and is in the Bureau Library. It contains chapters on The Farmer and the Country Elevator, Public and Terminal Elevators, The Grading of Grain, Cleaning and Disposition of Screenings, Financing the Grain Movement, The Winnipeg Grain Exchange, Markets and Trade Routes, Government Elevators, and Administration of the Canada Grain Act. 59C1642

Corn Trade Year Book. 1925.

Broomhall's Corn Trade Year Book, last published in 1921, has been received bearing the date of March, 1925, and the publishers state that if they are able to command adequate support they intend to publish it annually in the future. The book has been divided into four sections (1) Acreage and Production, (2) Imports, Exports and Stocks, (3) Grain Prices, Foreign Exchanges and Freights, (4) Principal Countries - Crops, Trade and Consumption. A table of particular interest is that showing the consumption of wheat in principal countries contrasted with production, population, and total area. Figures cover the year 1924. 286 B79

Economic Geography

J. Russell Smith's new volume, recently received, is entitled North America: Its People and the Resources, Development and Prospects of the Continent as an Agricultural, Industrial, and Commercial Area. The author writes in the preface "North America is passing through a crisis in its economic history. The population of the United States increased twenty-seven fold in the one hundred and thirty years between the first census in 1790 and that of 1920. This increase, without parallel in the history of the world, was accompanied by the use, waste, and destruction of resources at a speed also unparalleled.

"That is past. What of the future? This is the concern of every intelligent citizen - a growing concern. It will be even more acutely an affair which the youth now being educated must face. Their education should give them a thorough knowledge of the continent on which they are to live. Hence this book."

Dr. Baker is one of the three persons to whom the book is dedicated, as follows: "To O. E. Baker whose work in the analysis of agriculture and the graphic presentation of its facts has been the greatest single contribution to the materials of economic geography." 278 Sm5

Economic History

Experiments in State Control at the War Office and the Ministry of Food, by E. M. H. Lloyd, has been received in the library. Pt. 1 is devoted to the origins of control at the War Office, Pt. 2, to textiles and leather, Pt. 3, to meat and fats, and Pt. 4 to "comparative studies" including chapters on the mechanism and theory of price-fixing, the control of agricultural produce, and organized distribution. 280 L772

Federal Reserve System Discount Policy

Benjamin Haggott Beckhart is the author of a volume recently received entitled The Discount Policy of the Federal Reserve System. The author is assistant professor of banking at the School of Business, Columbia University.

The book consists of two parts. The first deals with the administration of the bank rate by the central banks of Europe as a background for a study of the policies of the Federal Reserve System. The second part is devoted to a discussion of the efforts made to exercise control over credit in the U. S. 284 B382

## Foreign Trade

Our Competitors and Markets is the title of a volume recently received in the library written by Arnold W. Lahee. It is intended to serve as an introduction to acquaintance with the major foreign countries with which we have commercial relations. The author states that each country is a problem in itself. "One is of chief interest as a competitor in industry and we wish to know whether its competition in the world's markets is growing or declining. Another is valuable as a source of raw materials. A third is a market for our manufactures. Our trade relations with a fourth are disturbed by possibilities of political controversy; and so on. The facts of geography must find their place in relation to our particular interest in the country under consideration. The book is a commercial geography reduced to perspective." The charts and graphs in the book are particularly abundant and add much interest to the text. There is a 62-page index and a full bibliography. 286 Ll32

## Our Debt and Duty to the Farmer

The library has copies of Secretary Wallace's book, Our Debt and Duty to the Farmer, ready for circulation. Comment on this work from the New York Herald-Tribune, the Washington Post, and the Washington Evening Star follows:

"In the late Secretary Wallace the American farmer had an able and devoted advocate. In this posthumous book Mr. Wallace gives a clear picture of the post-war agricultural depression and urges remedies for agricultural sickness. The main facts of the depression are well known; nowhere have they been assembled in more simple and telling form. A dozen charts picture the relative price movements of agricultural and other products since 1913 and indicate some of the outstanding results of such movements...Mr. Wallace lays the blame, and in some measure properly, on others than the farmers, including in his reproaches the local business men and bankers and the much-castigated Federal Reserve Board. Yet he states the essential facts. Agriculture prospered during the war, with what result? The market value of farm land in the Middle West, he points out, was in 1920 from 42 to 56 per cent higher than it would have been if the cash rents of the prosperous high-price year of 1919 had been capitalized at the current rate of interest on first mortgages. The fact speaks eloquently...Mr. Wallace puts the whole thing in a sentence when he says: 'In the future farmers must receive their financial rewards not in higher land values, but in annual profit from their productive efforts.' At bottom the problem is to get stability in whatever arrangement is finally reached, and to that arrangement the individual must adjust himself...Yet few will question Mr. Wallace's dictum that 'if the special favors now enjoyed by other groups are to stand, the propriety of granting compensating favors to agriculture cannot be questioned.' Not every one will agree with his contention, however, that such special favors include the immigration laws, the Adamson law, the protective tariff and the rate-making rule of the transportation act of 1920. But there will be general sympathy, probably, with his belief that we must build up an ideal of agricultural civilization, to do which 'thousands of well educated farm people must think with all their heart and soul about how to give farming not only economic equality, but also its full measure of human satisfaction in the long run.'" (New York Herald-Tribune, April 12, 1925.)

"The Secretary was not content to show the material effect of the depression in dollars and cents to the farmer, but he pointed out the possible social and moral effect upon the farmers and the country at large. A new agricultural civilization is the ideal toward which Secretary Wallace believed the country should move...The essential economic basis of such rural life would seem to be a stable price level, a sound scheme of land tenure; a properly organized plan of credit, and an orderly marketing system." (The Washington Post, April 19, 1925)

"Henry C. Wallace, late Secretary of Agriculture, is a posthumous best-seller. The publishers of his 'Our Debt and Duty to the Farmer,' completed shortly before his fatal illness last Autumn, declare no book issued by them in contemporary times has met with so instant favor. The book deals especially with the agricultural depression of 1920-1924 and contains some of Mr. Wallace's well-known recommendations for preventing future slumps." (Washington Evening Star, April 17, 1925)

### Political Economy

The library has recently acquired *Geschichte der National-Oekonomik in Deutschland* by Wilhelm Roscher. It is a history of political economy in Germany from the teachings of the humanists in the Middle Ages to the rise and development of socialism in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.  
280 R712

### Sweden Yearbook

The Sweden Yearbook - 1925, has been received. Besides the usual information regarding the activities and personnel of the Swedish government, there is a short chapter on agriculture giving statistics of production through 1923. 257.3 Sw3

### Taxation in Prussia

*Die Beurteilung von Landgütern und Grundstücken* by Prof. Dr. Friedrich Aereboe has recently been received in the library. (This is the second edition of a book written in 1912. It discusses taxation of large farms and independent pieces of land, livestock, agricultural products, buildings and farming accessories of all kinds, and gives a short discussion of property and inheritance taxes and an argument for the reform of the public tax system and the establishment and organization of public tax offices such as are provided for in Prussia by the law of June 8, 1918.) 282 Ae8

### Taxation of Incomes, Corporations and Inheritances

A. Bernard of the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress is the author of a volume entitled *Taxation of Incomes, Corporations and Inheritances in Canada, Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium and Spain*, which has been published as Senate Document No. 186 of the 2d Session of the 68th Congress, under date of January 12, 1925. It covers in detail the methods of taxing incomes, corporations, inheritances, and gifts in the countries named and is considered by the Treasury Department as authoritative. The nature of the taxation of agricultural profits is noted in Belgium, France, Great Britain, and Italy.

RECENT PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Agricultural Credit

Claude L. Benner of the Institute of Economics is the author of Credit Aspects of the Agricultural Depression, 1920-21, which has been published in two parts in the Journal of Political Economy for March and April, 1925. The author states in the introduction that the purpose of the article is to survey the importance of the rôle played by the credit factor by examining the part that (1) the country banks, (2) the city correspondents, and (3) the Federal Reserve banks played during the trying period which existed during 1920-21. The author summarizes the results of his study as follows: "(1) The opening of 1920 found the farmers heavily in debt to their local banks and a set of unusual conditions preventing their customary spring liquidation. (2) The demands of war and post-war financing had so exhausted our banking resources that credit expansion had to be stopped. (3) The Federal Reserve Board attempted to stop credit expansion by horizontal increase in rediscount rates and by putting into effect 'penalty progressive rates' for those member banks who were borrowing excessively from the Reserve institutions. (4) A drastic fall in the prices of agricultural products brought on a severe rural credit stringency by endangering the security back of the farmers' loans and by causing the country banks to suffer a heavy loss of deposits. (5) Country banks met this situation by calling in loans and increasing their borrowings from outside sources. (6) The farmers were forced to liquidate part of their loans at the same time that the prices of their products were declining, which led them to believe that they were suffering from a forced credit deflation wilfully brought on to depress the prices of their products."

Economic Aspects of Forestry

Colonel W. B. Greeley, Chief Forester of the Department, is the author of an article with the title above in the April, 1925, issue of the Journal of Land and Public Utility Economics. The editor states in a note that although Colonel Greeley's analysis refers particularly to private forestry it provides an indispensable foundation for the further consideration of forestry by public agencies. In a later issue there will be an article dealing especially with public forestry, which the author states "is at bottom a matter of economics in the use of land and the production of raw materials."

Insurance

V. N. Valgren, Manager of the Crop and Weather Department of the Automobile Insurance Co. of Hartford, is the author of an article, entitled Insurance and the Farm Hazards, published in the Journal of Land and Public Utility Economics for April, 1925. The author groups the risks and hazards that the crop producer assumes under two heads: (1) the risk of an over-supply of his product as measured by market demand, at a price that will pay cost of production, including a fair reward to the producer; (2) the risk that his own crop will meet with disaster, even though such crops in general are good and the prices satisfactory. The author thinks that insurance companies can

be of little help in taking from the shoulders of the farmer the risk of overproduction and a resulting inadequate price. Any attempt to do this is quite certain to lead to failure. "Wherever lies the power to determine the distribution of the cultivated acreage to different crops, there must lie the responsibility for overproduction of a given commodity with resulting gluts in the market and inadequate price... Against the second class of risks or hazards assumed by the farmer - namely, those involving failure or destruction of the crop on a given farm or in a local area - insurance can and should ... afford a measure of protection." The author proceeds to a discussion of crop damage and financial loss and the kind of crop insurance needed. He reviews the history and present status of crop insurance in this country and states that in his opinion crop insurance is the only means by which the hazards involved in crop production can be removed to such an extent as will bring the growing of crops to the level of our more stabilized industrial and commercial activities from the point of view of safety of investment and certainty of at least measurable returns.

#### Land Utilization

Dr. L. C. Gray is the author of an article in the Journal of Land and Public Utility Economics for April, 1925, entitled The Field of Land Utilization. After defining land utilization, Dr. Gray describes the general scope of the field. He states that "what differentiates land utilization from descriptive economic geography is the fact that its primary aim is the development of policies for the most effective use of the land.

"The information collected and organized must be translated into definite policies of use, and these, in turn, made effective by legislation or through the influence of ample publicity and extension work."

#### NOTES

American Cotton Manufacturers' Association.

The 29th Annual Convention, held in New Orleans, April 10 and 11. A summary of the proceedings was published in the Manufacturers' Record for April 16, 1925.

Canada. Dept. of agriculture. Publications branch.

Canadian wheat and wheat flour. Ottawa, 1924.

59 C1612

Crawford, N. A.

The farmer is a business man. William M. Jardine, the new Secretary of Agriculture, talks to Nelson Antrim Crawford. (Nation's Business, v.13, no.4, April, 1925, p.13)

Fay, C. R.

The cooperative marketing of wheat (Jour. of the Canadian Bankers' Assoc. Jan. 1925, p.220-224)

A lecture delivered on Oct. 29, 1924, before the Toronto Bankers' Educational Association.

Haworth, P. L.

George Washington, country gentleman; being an account of his home life and agricultural activities. Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1925. (Revised edition) 120 W27H

Jardine, W. M.

The farmer, his fellow farmers, and other folk. (Country gentleman, April 18, 1925, p.3)

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The farmer must help himself. (Country gentleman, April 11, 1925, p.3)

Jome, Hiram, L.

Public policy toward radio broadcasting. (Jour. of Land and Public Utility Economics, April, 1925, p.198-214)

Thurstone, L. L.

The fundamentals of statistics. New York, Macmillan co., 1925. 251 T42

Thorpe, Merle.

The new Secretary of Agriculture. (World's Work, May, 1925, p.86-90)

*Mary G. Lacy*  
Librarian

Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 26, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

NO. 23

Feature of this Issue: BIBLIOGRAPHICAL WORK IN THE BUREAU LIBRARY

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL WORK IN THE BUREAU LIBRARY

"If there is one thing that the student of economics desires more than another it is to have the relevant facts about a great issue collected for him in a compact and intelligible form. It is only very rarely that this desire of his is satisfied. Argument, theory, suggested remedies he can get in plenty, but seldom the data on which all this super-structure depends. If by chance he does get it, it is more often than not thrown at him in a form which only the most hardened resolution can bring him to read." The Economist, v.96, p.549, March 10, 1923.

It is our major effort to supply the sources of the relevant facts about the subjects in which this Bureau is interested. We do this in several ways - by our catalogues and indexes, by the analysis of our foreign official statistical publications, and by the compiling of bibliographies on subjects upon which our investigators are working.

What is a bibliography? The word is loosely used for all lists of references relating to a given subject, with notices of editions, dates of printing, etc., and with annotations or notes where desirable. It should not be applied, however, to the mere clerical listing of references taken from a catalogue or index. If judgment and a wise discrimination as to the elimination and inclusion of material have not been used, the resulting compilation is not really a bibliography but is only a list of references.

Steps Necessary One way of explaining what a bibliography is, is to trace the steps necessary in the production of one. Briefly they are the following: (1) To consult the sources of the literature of a subject--which requires a knowledge of catalogues, indexes, reference books and other aids and also the imagination to pursue clues to sources which are not obvious; (2) To select and examine critically the material thus located; (3) To eliminate material unsuitable for inclusion; (4) To evaluate and annotate the selected material by the addition of discriminating and illuminating notes and abstracts; (5) To classify this material so as to show the relation of the different phases of the subject to each other and the bearing upon them of material in allied fields; (6) To present this material in the most effective and usable way; (7) To prepare the final product for mimeographing or publication, and for distribution.



Recent

Bibliographies

Among the bibliographies compiled in the library more or less recently are the following: Business Management; Councils and Chambers of Agriculture in Foreign Countries; Business and Agriculture; Serials Containing Material Relating to Agricultural Economics issued by State Departments of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Stations and State Universities; State Crop and Livestock Reports Issued in Cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics (Annotated to show what statistics are given and whether they are given by counties); Dictionaries and Glossaries of Agriculture, Economics, Livestock and Statistics; Cost of Production of Sugar; Cost of Production of Milk; Apples: Recent Federal and State Publications; International Trade; Foreign Departments of Agriculture and Statistical Bureaus, Together with Names and Titles of the Principal Official of Each and Titles of Official Publications; Text-books and Treatises on Statistical Methods (in foreign languages); and Fruit and Produce Auctions.

There are so many requests for bibliographies waiting that our choice of a subject is usually made in the effort to put "first things first." We like to have requests made even if we can not accede to them immediately. They help us to decide what is most important. If several requests come in for closely related subjects we can sometimes prepare one bibliography covering them all.

Two bibliographies upon which we have been working for some time we hope to have ready for distribution before the next Library Supplement appears. We are, therefore, announcing them now and shall be glad to receive requests for them which we will fill as soon as the bibliographies are ready. The titles are: (1) Long-time Agricultural Programs in the United States - National, Regional and State; and (2) The World Food Supply.

### AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

#### Arthur Young's Unpublished Work.

Agricultural history students may be interested in the following excerpt taken from Robert H. Elliott's book entitled "The Agricultural Changes Required by the Times", the second edition of which published in Kelso, England, in 1901, is contained in the Department library. "Young's latter years seem to have been largely occupied in composing his great unpublished work, entitled 'The Elements and Practice of Agriculture', the existence of which few people can be aware of, if I may judge by the fact that no reference to it has been made by the writer on Young in the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica,' .... Last July I accidentally heard of his work, which had been presented to the British Museum by the widow of Arthur Young's grandson, and at once went to look at it, in the hope that I should find something of value with reference to the subject I am now writing on. I was asked by one of the polite officials in the MSS Department if I should like to see the whole work. I replied in the

The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics, which are based on the principle of the uncertainty of the position and momentum of the particles. The structure of the atom is therefore not a simple one, but a complex one, which is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics.

The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the experimental results of the study of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the experimental results are in good agreement with the theoretical predictions of the theory of the structure of the atom. The experimental results are therefore a strong confirmation of the theory of the structure of the atom.

### CONCLUSION

The results of the study of the structure of the atom show that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics. The experimental results are in good agreement with the theoretical predictions of the theory of the structure of the atom. The experimental results are therefore a strong confirmation of the theory of the structure of the atom.

affirmative, expecting to see two or three volumes at the most. After some delay the door was opened, and there was wheeled noiselessly into the room a kind of perambulator on four India-rubber-lined wheels, on which were ten very large volumes of MSS, written on foolscap of very large size, and none of which, I think, contained less than 500 pages, while several contained more than 1100. These enormous volumes, though entitled 'The Science and Practice of Agriculture', really seem to relate to every branch of rural economy, down to the management of bees, the transporting of live fish alive, and the castrating of fish, a practice which seemed to be not uncommon in the last century, and a notice of which I have read in Scots Magazine, which runs from 1739. It was, no doubt, on this great work that he thought his reputation would most surely rest, and, considering, that its very existence can hardly be said to be known, it is difficult to read Arthur Young's preface to it without a feeling of melancholy. 'This work', he says, 'which I now presume to offer to the public, has been founded on the basis of 50 years' experience, much of the labour of more than 30 years, and travelling to the extent of more than 20,000 miles. It was not originally undertaken with the design of publication, but to form a collection of all those passages which I met with in the perusal of books for my own private use.' Shortly after Arthur Young's death an attempt was made to bring out what has been well called his life's work, and it was accordingly submitted to publishers in London, but they were all deterred from undertaking the publication owing to the great size of the book and the consequent risk of publishing it. A few years later Sir John Sinclair, who was anxious that the work should not be lost to the agricultural world, asked to have it sent to Scotland, believing that Edinburgh publishers would perhaps undertake what their London brethren had declined; but no success attended this attempt, and the MSS were returned to Bradfield, then occupied by Arthur Young's daughter.

"Miss Young died in 1851, having appointed as her executor a Mr. de St. Croix, who then placed the MSS in the hands of his brother Walpole to copy and condense, so that they might be bound and preserved, and hence the ten large volumes to which I have alluded, the full title of which is 'The Elements and Practice of Agriculture,' by Arthur Young, F. R. S., and secretary to the Board of Agriculture, edited from the original MSS by Walpole de St. Croix, from 1852 to '55. It may be well to mention that the MSS have been copied in a clear handwriting, and that to each volume there is a table of contents, so that the work may be easily consulted. The original MSS are also in the British Museum, and one of the officials called my attention to the fact that certain passages had been deleted; but I find, on inquiry, that it is impossible to ascertain whether the deletions were made by the editor or by Arthur Young. They do not seem to be very numerous, if I may judge of a slight inspection I made of one of the bundles of the original MSS. In the Editor's preface it is stated that 'the present work, as its title would imply, is not designed to be the practice of Agriculture alone of Arthur Young, but rather a compendium of husbandry from its first dawn to the period of his death in 1819' (which date, I may remark in passing, is a year earlier than that elsewhere given), and in it there are many quotations from, and references to, continental writers on agriculture."

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be carefully documented to ensure the integrity of the financial data. This includes recording dates, amounts, and the nature of the transactions.

Secondly, the document highlights the need for regular reconciliation of accounts. By comparing internal records with external statements, discrepancies can be identified and corrected promptly. This process helps in maintaining the accuracy of the books and prevents the accumulation of errors over time.

Thirdly, the document stresses the importance of proper classification of expenses. Each transaction should be categorized correctly to facilitate accurate reporting and analysis. This involves understanding the different types of expenses and their impact on the overall financial position.

Finally, the document concludes by stating that consistent adherence to these principles is essential for the success of any financial management system. It encourages a disciplined approach to record-keeping and reconciliation to ensure the reliability of the financial statements.

NEW BOOKS

Agricultural Economic Reports

The Great Britain Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is issuing a series of Reports on economic subjects connected with agriculture, including methods of marketing home grown and imported agricultural produce as follows:-

- No. 1. Co-operative Marketing of Agricultural Produce in England and Wales.  
(This number has been received in the library)
- No. 2. The Stabilisation of Agricultural Prices: Report of a Committee appointed to enquire into this subject. (In the Press)
- No. 3. The Economic Resources of Canada in Relation to British Food Supplies.  
Report by Sir Henry Rew, K.C.B. (In the Press)
- No. 4. Co-operative Marketing of Farm Produce in the United States. (In preparation)
- No. 5. The Co-operative Purchase of Agricultural Requisites in England and Wales.  
(In Preparation.)

Farmers and Workingmen

The library has recently received a Columbia University Ph. D. thesis by Stuart A. Rice, entitled Farmers and Workers in American Politics. Dr. Rice who is assistant professor of Sociology at Dartmouth writes as follows in the preface: "The probability or improbability of a durable farmer-labor alliance in American politics is thus a political and sociological problem of immediate importance. It devolves itself into the more primary question whether farmers and industrial workers are like-minded or mutually antagonistic in their respective political attitudes." The study "is based upon public records of political behavior, especially upon election returns and upon the roll-call votes of farmer and labor members of legislative bodies." The conclusion is that "Every group is possessed of some common point (or points) of resemblance-- whether it be a physical or social characteristic, a common experience, or a similar state of mind concerning a political question. So long as the stimuli playing upon individuals call attention to this common character, those who possess it will constitute a group in actuality. But no two or more individuals are alike in all things. When the stimuli change so that new points of resemblance among individuals are brought into the center of 'social consciousness,' there will be a re-grouping of these individuals. The old points of resemblance may still exist, but the old groupings to which they gave rise are no longer actual but only potential." The author thinks that agreement between farmers and the labor group is unlikely upon issues founded in prejudice or tradition, but is possible upon issues involving a rational calculation of interests.

Appendix A is an enumeration of the criteria employed in classifying legislators as "Farmer" or "Labor." 280 R36

International Labour Office Inquiry into Production

The International Labour Office at Geneva, Switzerland, has made an extensive inquiry into production, consumption, and other matters, by means of a questionnaire to which 27 governments replied. The results of this inquiry are being summarized in a general report to appear in four volumes. The first of these appeared late in 1923 and was reviewed in the Library Supplement for April



1, 1924. Volume two, in two parts, has recently been received in the library. It contains two sections of particular interest to this Bureau: (1) agricultural products destined for industrial uses, and (2) agricultural products to be used for food. The first of these sections covers rubber, cotton, wool, silk, flax, hemp, and jute. The second discusses beet sugar, cane sugar, wheat and rye, corn, rice, and livestock. Under cotton there are given production figures from 27 countries for 1914-1921, with an average figure for 1909/10-1913/14. There are graphs showing the exportation of American cotton by country of destination. Prices of cotton in different markets (New York, London, Barcelona, Calcutta, Havre, Bremen) are given. The same type of information in greater or less fullness may be found for the other commodities covered.

These volumes contain also, in greater or less fullness, the yield per laborer in the different countries. There is also a section devoted to the yield per unit of surface of sugar beets, wheat and rye. 280 In84

### Our Rural Heritage

James Mickel Williams of Hobart College is the author of a volume recently acquired by the library entitled, Our Rural Heritage: The Social Psychology of Rural Development. Dr. Hobart is the author of The American Town, and Foundations of Social Science. The author states in the preface that the new volume is "one of the inductive studies" referred to in his Foundations of Social Science. He states also that it is a psychological study and that only that part of the rural heritage is studied which is susceptible of psychological analysis. "This book will be followed by one on the expansion of rural life which will show the rural heritage in process of adaptation to new conditions... Our rural heritage is by no means a subject of merely historical interest. It is a living thing to-day. Modified by the unprecedented changes of the past fifty years it still is the psychological basis of rural civilization, and, as such, constitutes a good part of the psychological basis of our national life. A study of it is, therefore, of great practical importance, as well as of scientific interest... There is now taking place in Europe and America the most widespread and well organized agrarian movement in history. It is not that rural populations are worse off than they have been. It is due to the fact that their communities are no longer isolated and they have been brought into intimate contact with classes which have been becoming more rapidly prosperous than the farmer. Furthermore, within the rural community some families have become more prosperous than others. As long as all were equally poor, no one was bothered by his poverty. Inequality causes discontent. Also, in America and in certain European nations the old-time neighbourliness and sense of solidarity of the rural community is out the wane and the farmer is thrown back on himself. Rural life does not give the contentment it once gave. The farmer is less absorbed in the mere process of work, in mere industriousness, and has become intent on the financial results of work. Hence the movement on the part of rural populations to improve their economic condition. The means employed are economic reorganization and the use of political power. Both in European nations and in the United States the tillers of the soil have become a political force whose demands for justice must be satisfied before there is economic or political stability. Consequently an understanding of the situation in the various nations - a world view of present civilization - requires an understanding of rural social psychology." 281.2 W67

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that a knowledge of the past is essential for a full understanding of the present. The author then proceeds to discuss the various factors that have shaped the development of the United States, including the role of the government, the influence of the economy, and the impact of social movements. The paper concludes by emphasizing the need for a continued commitment to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

The second part of the paper focuses on the role of the government in the development of the United States. It is argued that the government has played a crucial role in shaping the nation's destiny, from the early years of settlement to the present day. The author discusses the various policies and programs that have been implemented by the government, and evaluates their impact on the country's development. The paper concludes by arguing that the government must continue to play a central role in the life of the nation, in order to ensure the continued growth and prosperity of the United States.

## Report of the Royal Commission on Food Prices

We have just received volume 1, of the First Report of the Royal Commission on Food Prices. Volume 2 consists of the Minutes of Evidence, which we have already in the 19 separate parts as first issued. Volume 3 will contain the appendices.

This volume 1 covers bread, flour, wheat, meat - retail trade, meat - wholesale trade, and state trading in food, besides the general report on food prices and consumption, food prices and production, margin between wholesale and retail prices, etc. It also contains the conclusions and recommendations of the Royal Commission and the two minority reports. F. F.

### Russia

The library has recieved the Commercial Year-book of the Soviet Union, 1925. It is compiled by Louis Segal, a Doctor of Philosophy of Moscow University, and A. A. Santalov, Graduate in Economics and Law of the same institution. The constitution of the U. S. S. R. (Union of Socialist Soviet Republics) is given and much other material of the type usually found in yearbooks.

The chapters of especial interest to this Bureau are those relating to agriculture, the cooperative movement, and foreign trade. Figures for area under cultivation for grain are given for 1916, 1922, 1923, and 1924, and gross yield for the same years. Figures for the production of cotton, flax, hemp, sunflower seed, flax seed, hemp seed, tobacco (yellow), for 1913, 1922, and 1923 are given. There is an index of wholesale prices according to the State Planning Commission, using 1913 as 100 and giving index numbers for each quarter of 1922/23 and 1923/24. F.F.

### Tariff

Wallace McClure, a member of the bar of Knoxville, Tenn., is the author of a volume entitled A New American Commercial Policy which was submitted as a Ph. D. thesis at Columbia University and published in 1924. The author quotes from Washington's Farewell Address the words... "Our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences." This sentence is evidently the heart of his argument as the following quotation would indicate: "There is one element in the aggregate national commercial policy which attracts comparatively little public notice but which, because it primarily and with especial directness affects the comity of international relationships, may, without substantial inaccuracy be thought of as the external commercial policy of the country which maintains it. Its essential characteristic is the treatment accorded to the commerce of one outside country in comparison with the treatment which is accorded to others; it has its bases in agreements between countries as well as in statutes which they severally enact. The term 'commercial policy' is used in this restricted sense in the present monograph, the object of which is both to describe such policy as it appears to exist in the United States at present and to make certain suggestions relating to future developments." Part I is devoted to an analysis of Section 317 of the Tariff Act of 1922 (discrimination by any foreign country against the commerce of the United States as compared with any other country)



and a study of the historical development of the principles underlying Section 317 as the basis of the American commercial policy. Part II is devoted to a study of the obstacles to the development of the "new commercial policy" and Part III to a study of aids in the development of the policy. There are ten appendices of which no. 5 is of especial interest as it contains the provisions in the laws of other countries analagous to Section 317. 286 M134.

### PERIODICALS

#### Monthly Review of Central Europe

The Anglo-Austrian Bank, Ltd., of London, publishes a Monthly Review of Central Europe, which is being received currently in the Bureau Library. This publication takes the place of the English edition of the Monthly Report formerly printed by the Vienna Branch of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Ltd., publication of which has been suspended. The first number of the new publication, dated January, 1925, gives a general review of conditions in central Europe in 1924. The February and March numbers contain information relating to general business conditions in the countries of Central Europe during the period covered. Titles of some typical articles follow: Position of the Austrian Reconstruction Scheme; Yugoslavia - Politics versus Prosperity; Italian Finance and the Fall of the Lira.

#### Primary Producers News

The library has recently added to its list of periodicals currently received, the Primary Producers News, which is the official organ of the Primary Producers Union and the Cooperative Dairy Factory Managers and Secretaries Association of New South Wales. The issue for February 19, 1925, reviews briefly the history of the Primary Producers Union since its inception.

#### Silk, Artificial.

Commerce Monthly, published by the National Bank of Commerce in New York, in its issue for May, 1925, has an article entitled "Developments in the Artificial Silk Situation" which is of interest to us because of the wool situation at the present time. Statistics are given for the international trade in artificial silk yarns in 1913 and 1924 exclusive of the United Kingdom for which figures are not available for either 1913 or 1924. The author "E.K.S." writes as follows: "From a position of inconsequence, not to say of actual derision, in the textile trade twenty years ago the artificial silk industry has assumed an enviable role, its annual output at present running well over 100,000,000 pounds. As production of yarn has expanded, markets for the new textile have been broadening until today an almost insatiable demand taxes the now greatly enlarged facilities here and abroad. Enlargements of existing plants and the construction of additional units are actively under way, several estimates of the probable outturn this year totaling above 150,000,000 pounds or double the crop of real silk. In certain centers machinery is being run night and day in an attempt to keep abreast of the demand... Since rayon is essentially a chemical and mechanical rather than an agricultural product, supply can be promptly adjusted to



requirements. Should a serious drop in demand for raw silk make itself felt in consuming markets response from the supply side would be necessarily tardy. Results of change are long in affecting the multitude of small farmers engaged in the production of raw silk. Remote from the stream of commerce, silk growers are temperamentally conservative, their all tied up in the mulberry trees and cocoeneries whose output frequently furnishes their one money crop... Neither in this country nor in the world at large is it yet indicated that there is a greater capacity for artificial silk production than there is power to absorb it. The very large capital outlay necessary as a mere preliminary to commercial operations, the technical difficulties in the way of effective production and the necessity for manufacturing on a large scale and of maintaining expensive experimental work in connection with the yarn mills have conspired to limit the numbers engaged in the industry. Though comparable data of production costs in various countries are not available it is evident that with mass production the price of rayon to the consumer may in time be considerably lowered and still leave the industry on a paying basis."

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for May, 1925, contains an article by S. S. Sadtler entitled "Research in the Artificial Silk Industry" which is of interest also in this connection.

Roger W. Babson was the author of a special dispatch to the Washington Star of May 16, 1925, entitled Silk's Popularity Serious Blow to Woolen Mill Prosperity. This clipping may be seen in the Bureau Library.

#### Notes

A B C of Queensland Statistics. 271.3 S + 2

Compiled by George Porter, Registrar-General of Queensland.  
Brisbane, 1925.

Contains statistics of production for principal crops for  
Queensland and the other Australian states to June 30, 1924.

Clay, John.

My life on the range. Chicago, 1924. 43057

Contains, besides the autobiography of John Clay, which is of great interest in connection with the history of the cattle industry, the statistics of two large cattle companies regarding prices, losses, income, expenses and taxes.

Swiss Bank Corporation.

Financial and Commercial review. 1924. 286 Sw62 1924.

Contains an interesting table showing the comparative economic development, 1913/1923, of Great Britain, United States, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, and Argentina.

*Mary G. Lacy*

Librarian

Bureau of Agricultural Economics



# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 30, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT\*

No. 24.

Feature of this Issue: INDEX-CATALOGUE IN THE BUREAU LIBRARY

## INDEX-CATALOGUE IN THE BUREAU LIBRARY

Our index-catalogue, which occupies 45 drawers in Room 310, is arranged like a dictionary - which means that authors and subjects (as well as titles when made) are arranged in one alphabet. The cards it contains represent not only books filed in the Bureau library (these have the letters AE in the upper right-hand corner) but also many books filed in the Department library, the Library of Congress and elsewhere.

The following sample of a catalogue card is given for the information of those interested.

280.9

AE

Am34 American academy of political and social science,  
Philadelphia.

The agricultural situation in the United States  
... Philadelphia, 1925.

304p. (Its Annals, vol. CXVII, January, 1925)

Contents.- Pt. 1. The farmers' dollar.- Pt. 2.

Taxes, tenantry, credit and farm ownership.-

Pt. 3. The farmers as managers.- Pt. 4. The market  
for farm products and the cost of marketing.-

Pt. 5. Self-help through co-operative organizations.-

Pt. 6. Fitting production to the market.

Imagine a borrower coming to the library with this book in mind. He has seen a reference to it in some periodical, he knows it was published in Philadelphia, and contained an article on The Farmers' Dollar. He looks under Farmers' Dollar and finds a title card which leads him to

\*The Library Supplement will not be issued in July and August, 1925. It will be resumed with the September number.



the book at once. Another prospective borrower has heard that there is a book, besides Warren and Pearson's, with the title The Agricultural Situation in the United States. So when he sees the card above, which he finds repeated under "Agricultural situation," he knows he has found what he wanted. In addition to the headings noted the book will be entered under the American academy of political and social science and under the following subject headings: 1. Taxation. 2. Agricultural credit. 3. Farm ownership. 4. Farm management. 5. Marketing of farm products. 6. Cost of marketing. 7. Cooperation. Each of these subjects is written across the top of a copy of the original card. All of this work is done according to definite, standard library practice but if usage demands an informal card, to aid the reader and the library assistant, it is made without hesitation. A typical sample of such entries is that of "Blue books" which may be used as follows: A messenger comes in and says, "Mr. Blank wants the Blue Book." If Mr. Blank is an executive we send him the Official Register of the United States. If, however, he is a specialist, working with cotton or wool we send him Davison's Textile Blue Book. If he is in the Fruits and Vegetables Division we send him the Produce Reporter Credit Book. If he is just about to start on a trip we send him the Hotel Blue Book. Of course, Mr. Blank may not qualify under any of these headings in which case we may have to send the messenger back to ask which of several titles is the one wanted, or we may guess, and guess wrong possibly. Time would be saved of course if the kind of Blue Book wanted were specified in the first place.

Catalogue of Department  
The Department library's catalogue, which is recognized as second to none in the perfection of its technique, includes entries for all of the library collections of the Department and for that reason is known as a union catalogue. One such complete record in the Department is enough. It is believed therefore to be a better policy to analyze the books and periodicals which relate to the work of the Bureau so far as we can, rather than to duplicate the catalogue entries in the Department library. There are also many books and periodicals of interest to more than one Bureau and much duplication is avoided by having such material filed with the Department library and be borrowed from there when needed. The index-catalogue must show such books however, and it does. In addition to the entries which are also found in the Department library catalogue, it must have entries for chapters in books which have a bearing on work in progress, or articles in periodicals which are not indexed in the Agricultural Index or some other index to periodicals, and might otherwise not be available when needed. Manuscript material is also recorded in the index-catalogue and brought out under the necessary subject headings. In some cases more subject cards are made for the books of especial interest to the Bureau than would ordinarily be made in the Department library. For these reasons the Bureau library index-catalogue should always be used in looking up any subject that falls in the special field of the Bureau, because it is more detailed for the material covered. On the other hand it is not safe to consult the index-catalogue and assume that a certain book is not available because it does not appear there. Ask a library assistant to look it up for you.



Record  
Cards

For instance, we do not undertake to make entries for all of the official statistics from foreign countries. Instead we have continued the plan evolved by Mrs. E. H. Painter, as Librarian of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, to which she gave the name Record Cards. These are cards arranged by country on which statistical publications are entered as soon as received with call number, date, etc. This is really a finding

list and serves our purpose quite adequately as far as showing what statistics are available from a given country and where they are filed. If however, one needs to know all changes in issuing offices, changes of title during the course of years and such things one must go to the Department library catalogue or ask one of the Bureau library staff to do so.

Use of  
Index-  
Catalogue

The catalogue is available for use by anyone, but if you do not readily find what you want do not go away assuming that the library hasn't it. Ask the assistant in charge. A catalogue is like any other tool, - the person skilled in its use can produce results from it not guessed by the unskilled user.

NEW BOOKS

Agriculture and Political Economy

The library has recently received the 6th edition of Allgemeine Landwirtschaftliche Betriebslehre by Dr. Friedrich Aereboe. [Outlining the relationship between political economy and the science of agriculture, the author points out that, while they have certain points in common, the aim of political economy is the attainment of the highest good of all the members of the state, that of agriculture, the establishment of the largest possible number of farms. To the political economist agriculture means the economic activity of all persons engaged in farming, whether as owners, overseers or laborers; to the agriculturist it means the private activity of all independent farmers on large or small farms, owned by themselves or leased.

The book under consideration deals exclusively with agriculture from the point of view of the individual farmer. ] It distinguishes between the technique of farming which deals with the natural laws that govern the growth and successful development of plants and animals and the application of those laws, and the economic problems of farming which deal with agricultural undertakings as an organic whole in which the single plant or animal is not an end in itself but a means to an end. These problems include the cultivation of the land, the leasing of land, its valuation and financial problems.

A few general statements as to the aims of the farmer are followed by a discussion of the various sizes of farms.

[ Chapter 2 deals with the means used by the farmer to attain his goal, the soil, the buildings, tools, machinery, livestock and the human element. The use of the original product or its conversion into something else, as milk into butter, is discussed from a practical and an economic standpoint. Money alone should be recognized as working capital. Stock is not such in itself but only a means by which the working capital may be obtained. The human element is discussed at length from the owner to the unskilled laborer, including administrators, overseers, inspectors, skilled workmen, and spe-

[illegible]

*Journal of Management Studies*, 19(6), 701-718.

cialists in certain lines. Permanent and transient workers, married and unmarried, men, women and children are dealt with, as well as the wages paid to them in money, in kind, in land, by the year, by the hour, by the piece of work, etc.

The author next ~~goes on to~~ analyses the principles of organisation of farming enterprises. In dealing with intensive and extensive farming he points out that it is not the question as to whether the farmer should use intensive or extensive methods that is of greatest importance, and it is not any degree of intensity that in itself will insure him success. Success depends above all on the harmonious working together of every phase of his undertaking. The proper handling of the system chosen is much more important than the system itself. The relation of prices to the various kinds of farming enterprises is discussed at length.

The several phases of the conduct of the business of farming are next dealt with. The knowledge, ability, and energy of the farmer are emphasized, his knowledge of men and his willingness to subordinate his immediate personal interests to those of the undertaking as a whole. Personal administration on the part of the owner of the farm, administration by another in the interests of the owner, the leasing of farms, including the time lease, the lifetime lease, the lease that may be inherited are all discussed, special emphasis being laid on the time lease which is of greatest importance today.

From the discussion of rent and the various forms in which it is paid, the owner passes to the question of the financing of the farm and deals with ready money, sinking funds, debt, installment payments on machinery, etc.

The training, both practical and scientific of the farm owner or agent are discussed, as well as the necessity for hiring suitable assistants who are specialists in their own line.

A section devoted to the methods of calculating the net proceeds of the farm in which it is shown that, in reality, the actual return in cash is a very imperfect measure of the real profits, is followed by a survey of the most important fundamental principles underlying the theory of intensive farming, and a table proving that it is primarily increasing prices of agricultural products that necessitate increased intensity of production. 30.2  
Ae8 A. M. Hannay.

### Business Cycles

Arthur B. Adams, Dean of the School of Business and Professor of Economics at the University of Oklahoma is the author of a volume, entitled Economics of Business Cycles, recently received in the library. The author writes as follows in the preface: "This book is not intended to contribute any valuable additions to the present store of empirical knowledge concerning business cycles; in describing the nature and characteristics of business cycles it endeavors only to use such statistical data and methods of presentation as are easily available from public records and from the works of others.

"The contribution which this work makes to the advancement of our knowledge concerning business cycles is its analysis of the causes and effects of the cycle forces. The major part of the book consists of an analytical study of the causes which produce the different changes in business trends and of how these forces may be controlled so as to eliminate violent



fluctuations. The work is an analytical rather than an empirical study; however the empiric knowledge heretofore gained is used as a basis for the analytical investigation herein made.

"According to the opinion of the author, business cycles are not inevitable manifestations of our present business system. He opposes the theory that each business cycle is generated by a previous one and itself generates a succeeding one; he does not believe that any business cycle is generated by conditions brought about as a result of a previous cycle. One of the chief objects of writing the book was to show that cyclical fluctuations are not initiated by cumulative forces which move within a charmed circle. He endeavors not only to demonstrate the fallacy of that theory, but to point out the specific forces which, when superimposed upon the business world from the outside, generate fluctuations. He has gone further and suggested methods by which organized society may control these generating forces so as to eliminate injurious business fluctuations." 280 Adl

#### Canada Yearbook, 1924

There are some new features in the Canada Yearbook for 1924, among which the following may be noted: An unusually full article on fruit production and a discussion of the cost of grain production in Canada, a description of the rise and present condition of cotton manufacturing in Canada and a detailed description of the methods the Dominion Bureau of Statistics uses in compiling its index number of wholesale prices. 253 Ag8Yc

#### Credit and Money Lending in 1572

A reprint of Thomas Wilson's work entitled A Discourse Upon Usury, printed first in 1572, has been acquired by the library. It contains a delightful historical introduction by R. H. Tawney, which gives a summary of the biography of Dr. Wilson, who was "Member of Parliament, Master in the Court of Requests, Ambassador to the Netherlands, and Secretary of State... He had tried commercial cases, negotiated commercial treaties, haggled with financiers at Lisbon and Antwerp and wrestled with a House of Commons disinclined, in matters of business, to be 'straightened to the word of God.'" 284 W69

#### Empty Churches

"Empty Churches" constitute a problem that concerns the city as well as the country. Convinced of this fact the Century Company asked Dr. Charles J. Galpin to draw on the same material on which he had built a recent series for the Country Gentleman in preparing a book for them to issue in convenient and attractive form, for the general public. The book goes further than the articles went. It is written from the standpoint of an interested, sympathetic and concerned layman who has studied and observed conditions in all parts of the country. His expressed purpose is "to take everybody to the rural communities with wide-open eyes, to see the empty churches, the children without God, the farm tenants without religion, the parsons on the run for the city, and the beginnings of a new type of rural church." With the analysis of situations and causes the reader finds some rather clean-cut indications of possible remedies. 281.2 G13E. C. B. Sherman.



### Farm Ownership and Tenancy

The Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science at its semi-annual meeting, March 9, 1925, has been received in the library. It contains an article by Dr. L. C. Gray, entitled Farm Ownership and Tenancy. The Proceedings, as a whole, were devoted to the subject of Popular Ownership of Property: Its Newer Forms and Social Consequences.

### Francis A. Walker

The library has recently acquired Discussions in Economics and Statistics by Dr. Francis A. Walker. This collection of his essays is too well known to need description. The one, entitled American Agriculture, which appeared first in the Princeton Review in 1882 is of especial interest. He treats the subject "under the following titles: (1) As to the tenure of the soil. - (2) As to character of the cultivators as a class. - (3) As to the freedom and fulness of experiment upon the relations of crops to climate and to local soils. - (4) As to what has been done biologically to promote our agriculture. - (5) As to what has been done mechanically. - (6) As to what has been done chemically. Under this head we shall have occasion to explain the westward movement of the field of cultivation of wheat and corn and the southwestward movement of the cotton culture." 280 W15D

### Prices

The Report of the Committee on Stabilisation of Agricultural Prices, which is no. 2 of the Reports on Agricultural Economics being issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has been received in the library. These reports were noted in the last issue of the Library Supplement. The introduction contains the following: "Historically, it is the fluctuations in agricultural prices as a whole which have been of the greatest importance and have had the most far-reaching consequences, for price changes of individual commodities, which are not part of a general change, tend to neutralise one another and are, therefore, less injurious to the farmer. The usual cause of a rise in price of a single agricultural product is a decrease in supply, and of a fall in price, an increase in supply. Changes may also be due to a falling off or increase in the demand, but since the consumption of food products per head of the population is relatively steady, changes in demand are probably less important. Variations in the volume of production will therefore go a long way towards explaining fluctuations in the price of single commodities, but they will not explain variations in the general price level, for it is hardly to be expected that all commodities will simultaneously become scarce or abundant. The explanation of such general variations in prices is properly attributed to monetary causes, that is to say, to changes in the relation of the total available means of payment in a community to the total quantity of goods and services to be marketed.

"Agricultural prices may, therefore, be said to fluctuate in consequence of two groups of causes: (1) General monetary causes; (2) Variations in the volume of production and the conditions of marketing of particular commodities.

"These constitute the problem we are asked to examine."



## Purchasing Power of the Consumer.

Purchasing Power of the Consumer, A Statistical Index, contains the three essays which received the awards in the J. Walter Thompson Company contest on the subject A Statistical Index of the Purchasing Power of Consumers in the United States.

The essay receiving the third award, submitted by R. A. Flinn of the New York State Department of Labor, attempts to show that "the most useful statistical index of the purchasing power of consumers in the United States may be obtained by showing the changes of workers seeking employment for each 100 persons called for by employers through the State (or Federal) Public Employment Offices." It is claimed for this index that the ratio of the number of workers seeking employment to the number called for by employers increases before, or as soon as there is any appreciable slackening and decreases before there is any appreciable improvement in industry. The essay does not prove these assumptions beyond a statement based on theory and the author's experience in the field of industrial employment. It further suggests that the State (New York) Department of Labor data on total payroll and employment by sex, city and industry, furnish information relative to the wage earners' buying power. The method outlined is simple, but applicable only where well organized and state-inclusive employment offices exist.

The essay receiving the second award, submitted by Dr. Emma A. Winslow, approaches the subject of the consumer's purchasing power from the viewpoint of expenditures as shown by family budgets. It is a comprehensive review and analysis of the results of studies of expenditures that have been made from time to time in various countries, by various commissions, for various groups of people, but it treats particularly the three surveys made in this country by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is pointed out that expenditures for certain items such as housing, fuel, light and clothing seem to vary directly with size of income and therefore "this makes possible the rough calculation of the approximate purchasing power of consumers along these lines from any income statistics which might be available showing average income for a specified locality."

Dr. W. A. Berridge's essay on An Index of the Incomes of Factory Workers in the United States received the first award. The essay presents indexes of earnings in certain groups of industries, and a combination of these indexes into a general one of earnings of industrial workers. The study is limited to the factory wage earning group, to the industries for which either State or Federal data are available, and to the post war period. The basis of the index is the reported monthly amounts of total payrolls. Dr. Berridge shows that his index corresponds closely with others of a similar nature, that income lags somewhat after employment, that it precedes savings, that it coincides with changes in magazine advertising, that there is a close relationship between factory workers' income and retail store sales and the general volume of trade. The index of income is also shown to follow 7 to 11 months later the changes in the speculative stock market. In his final chapter on Next Steps in the Measurement of Incomes the author points to the need of developing similar indexes of payrolls by regions and localities, and for non-manufacturing groups. Readers who are agriculturally minded may be disappointed to find no reference to the need of a monthly index of agricultural income in this outline for further re-



search. If the reviewer is not mistaken, agricultural money income contributes more to the purchasing power of the country than does the factory wage earning group.

Since Dr. Berridge developed his index of incomes other indexes of the same sort have been published, one by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from 1915 to date, and the other by the Federal Reserve Board, 1919 to date, by groups of industries. Dr. Berridge is credited with work on both of these.

The three essays form a valuable contribution to the subject of consumers' purchasing power, a field of investigation in which there is much to be done. A reading of them demonstrates how inadequate are our present data. When better information will become available on the amounts of current money income earned by groups and by the average consumer, and on the proportion of the average consumer's income spent for the various items in his budget, there will still be open the largely unexplored field of income related to price and quantities of goods purchased. 284 B454 L. H. Bean.

### Taxation

The Economics of Taxation by Harry Gunnison Brown, Professor of Economics in the University of Missouri, has been recently borrowed from the Library of Congress. The author writes as follows in the preface: "Only a thorough study of cause and effect relations in taxation can, in fact, make any one a competent leader of public opinion on tax problems. And this is exactly what college and university students in public finance are not generally encouraged to undertake. To know that this, that or the other tax system was applied in any country between given dates, to memorize the amounts of money expended for different public purposes, to learn that government receipts can be classified into gratuitous receipts, taxes, fees, etc., and to acquire various other bits of scattered information about the revenues and expenditures of many countries in many periods, does little or nothing to develop the student's judgment or to make him a trustworthy leader of opinion. As to whether the recognized leaders of the public on matters of finance ever will be chosen from among those who, as students, have learned to trace cause and effect relations rather than from among those whose teachers have encouraged them to specialize on the superficialities of the subject, we cannot say." The book is an inquiry into various revenue-raising policies, and attempts to show the consequences of government borrowing, the effects of taxes on commodities, and many other phases of the subject.

An English work entitled The Nature and First Principle of Taxation by Robert Jones has been received recently in the library. It is not a new book, having been published in 1914 as one of the Studies in Economics and Political Science, edited by the Director of the London School of Economics. There is an introduction by Sidney Webb from which we take the following: "If the community took time to think the matter out...it is conceivable that it might find that there were very few taxes worth abolishing, even if their revenue were not required to enable our Governments to pay their way. It is time that someone made a stand for the positive advantages of taxations. It is time, too, that we emphasized the fact that a large part of what we call taxation is merely the collective ownership of a portion of the income of the country. The Government...is not only a co-owner with every individual landlord, but also a sleeping partner in every business enterprise..." 284.5 J73



## PERIODICALS

### Index Numbers

E. C. Snow, Secretary of the Leather Producers' Association for England, Scotland, and Wales, is the author of an article in the February, 1925, International Labour Review, entitled The Practical Interpretation of Index Numbers. It is summarized as follows: "Most of the criticisms and discussions of price index numbers which have been published in recent years have been concerned mainly with questions of formula and method, and to a very small extent with materials. The last of these, however, is of prime importance, and failure to appreciate the real meaning of the quotations used for the various items which go to make up an index number may result in quite unjustifiable deductions from the final figures. This is illustrated below by examples drawn mainly from the leather industry, which suffice to show the practical difficulties in the way of choosing a quotation, even for a single commodity, which shall be really representative either of conditions in the industry or of the prices actually paid, either at a given date or for goods for consumption at that date, and which is not misleading on account of seasonal or other variations in quality or condition of the goods in question, or of confusion between speculative and industrial purchases. The author suggests that a system of separate indexes of prosperity might be constructed for all important industries, and that these might be combined into a general index of industrial prosperity, which would then usefully supersede the present price indexes for purposes of industrial discussions."

### Italy. Istituto Statistico-Economico

The recently created Istituto Statistico-Economico, affiliated with the R. Università degli Studi Economici e Commerciali di Trieste, has issued the first number of its Bollettino, dated March-April, 1925.

The aim of the institute is the study of economic conditions and problems in the region of Giulia, formed by the five provinces of Friuli, Trieste, Istria, Carnaro, and Zara, and of the international problems arising from the traffic between Trieste and Fiume and other ports of the Northern Adriatic. This is the first time that such a piece of work has been undertaken in Italy with reference to a limited territory. Separate publications will be issued from time to time in addition to the bulletin.

The first issue of the bulletin contains an account of the extent and population of the region of Giulia, followed by a brief sketch of its agriculture and fisheries, the former including a list of the various kinds of soil. Statistics showing the production of the various crops in 1922, 1923, 1924, with estimated figures for 1925, the production by provinces in 1924, the average per capita production and consumption of certain agricultural products in 1923 and 1923/24 respectively, and the silkworm and tobacco production in 1924, are also given.

The industries of the region are briefly dealt with as well as the traffic of Trieste in relation to that of the whole Kingdom. Finally a plan for keeping a complete record of all tourists entering and leaving Italy is discussed.



## Russia

The Consensus, which is the official organ of the National Economic League of Boston, devoted its May, 1925, issue to the Russian Situation and Its Relation to the United States. The issue contains addresses before the Economic Club of New York, March 23, 1925, by the Hon. John Hays Hammond, Ex-President American Institute of Mining Engineers, Dr. Henry W. MacCracken, President of Vassar College, Dr. Jerome Davis, Head of Y.M.C.A. War Work in Russia, Hugh Frayne, Esq., General Organizer of American Federation of Labor, Colonel William N. Haskell, Chief of American Relief Mission to Russia, 1920-1923, and the Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., Ph.D., Director General of Papal Relief Mission to Russia.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIES

### Accountants' Index. Supplement

The first supplement to the Accountants' Index published in 1920 has been received in the library. This valuable bibliography of accounting literature contains material which has appeared from January, 1921 through June, 1923, arranged both by author and by subject. There is also a very useful directory at the end which gives the addresses of publishers and periodicals. 241.3 Am3A

### Long-Time Agricultural Programs

The bibliography on long-time agricultural programs referred to in the last issue of the Library Supplement is now available for distribution. It is Agricultural Economics Bibliography No. 5, June, 1925, and is entitled Long-Time Agricultural Programs in the United States - National, Regional, and State, compiled by Mary G. Lacy. This bibliography may be obtained free upon request from the Library of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as long as the supply lasts.

### Personnel Administration

The library has received a bibliography entitled Personnel Administration compiled by William H. Rossi and Diana I. Powers Rossi. It is the first of the Human Relation Series which is being brought out under the editorship of Henry C. Metcalf, of the Bureau of Industrial Research and contains a wealth of references to the literature of the subject arranged under such headings as Education and Training, Research, Health and Safety, Rewards, Administrative Correlation, and Joint Relations. 241.3 R73

### World Food Supply

A bibliography on the world food supply is now being mimeographed as Bibliographical Contribution No. 9, June, 1925, of the Library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, entitled World Food Supply; a selected bibliography, compiled by Margaret T. Olcott. Requests sent to the Library of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will be filled as soon as the bibliography is ready.



Notes

Bidwell, Percy Wells, and Falconer, John I.

History of agriculture in the northern United States, 1620-1860.

Washington, D. C., Carnegie institution of Washington, May, 1925. 30.9 B47H

A signed review will appear in the September Library Supplement.

Clark, Harold F.

The cost of government and the support of education. N. Y., Teachers college, Columbia university, 1924.

"The purpose of this study has been to find out what part of the cost of government is caused by education." 284 C55

Fay, C. R.

North Carolina and the new industrial revolution. (Economic Journal, v.35, no.138, June 1925, p.200-213)

Great Britain. Foreign office.

Handbook of commercial treaties. London, 1924.

Indian tea share exchange, ltd.

Tea producing companies. 1924-25. London, 1925.

Deals with 125 Indian and 90 Ceylon companies, placed in alphabetical order.

Japan yearbook. Complete cyclopaedia of general information and statistics on Japan and Japanese territories for the year, 1924-25. Tokyo, [1925]

Flehn, Carl C.

The progress of economics during the last thirty-five years. (University of California Chronicle, v.26, July, 1924, p.253-276) 280 P71

*Mary E. Lacy*  
Librarian,  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 29, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT\*

No. 25

Feature of this Issue: THE BUREAU LIBRARY'S WORK

## THE BUREAU LIBRARY'S WORK

### Scope

The library of the Bureau is the economics branch of the Department library. It consists of the statistical collections of the Department relating to acreage, production, prices, etc. of agricultural crops as well as the collections on economics, cooperation, marketing, rural economics, land and rent, labor and wages, finance, and commerce.

### Users

The library is one of the service units of the Bureau. Every Division uses it, some more, some less, and some of the Divisions could not operate without the material which is (1) collected, (2) indexed, (3) filed, and (4) made available by the library. In addition, the library is widely used by other Government offices and outside agencies.

### Types of Service

The library is organized primarily to serve the Bureau (1) by direct reference and bibliographical work in response to specific requests, (2) by the circulation of books and periodicals covering the subject matter with which the different offices and divisions are working, (3) by the systematic acquisition of the material which makes possible the two types of service noted above, and (4) by compiling in advance of demand so far as possible comprehensive bibliographies and summaries of data. This last can be done effectively only if the trend of events is carefully watched and a sense developed of what might be called library forecasting. We need to feel in advance the demand that is sure to come or we shall not be ready.

### Bibliographies

The Bureau library has compiled this year 44 bibliographies and lists, varying widely in importance and value. The appreciation of these, as shown by the requests that have come for them and the commendatory letters received, has been very gratifying. They have been mimeographed only (with the exception of the Bibliography on the Marketing of Agricultural Products which was published as Miscellaneous Circular no. 35) and mimeographed material does not get much advertising so that the requests that come in represent real interest on the part of those who read the organs of the Bureau with care.

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\*The Library Supplement was not issued in July and August, 1925.



This library is believed to comprise the strongest collection of agricultural statistics in this country and probably in the world, and for that reason we are at work on the compilation of an index showing the official sources of various types of agricultural statistics in order to make the collection of more value to students. We have been engaged in the compilation of these data on the European countries for a little over a year, and to date the statistics from 47 official publications have been analyzed and almost 7000 cards made.

The library receives all sorts of requests for help through the mail. They range from that of the school child who

Correspondence wrote "I am a General Science pupil. Please tell me what is General Science" and from another "Please mail me the book of economics and if you will send it to me you will enlighten me," to that of the economist or business man who writes for "A summary of the history of export bounties past and present," "A history of commercial fruit growing" or "A summary of the various wastes and leakages involved in food distribution." The replies to these inquiries through the mail was probably the largest element in the library correspondence during the past year, consisting of about 1800 letters, exclusive of form letters.

Foreign The Bureau received from the Department's commissioners abroad, foreign consuls, and others, during 1924-25 almost 18,500 Files pieces of printed and typewritten matter. Because it is essential that this material reach those who use it within an hour or two of its receipt a system for very rapid recording and routing of this material has been worked out in cooperation with the Division of Statistical and Historical Research. After this first use of the material, it is made available for later consultation by a system of subject filing sub-divided by country, which seems to serve every need at a minimum expenditure for equipment and labor.

Circulation More than fourteen thousand books and more than sixty-three thousand periodicals were charged out to borrowers during the and Current year. This part of our service has been worked into a routine Reference which we are constantly trying to improve. It is one of the Work most important means we use to be of service to Bureau workers. The current reference service is carried on in connection with this work.

### NEW BOOKS

#### Agricultural Policy for England

State Services, by George Radford, is the title of a new book recently received in the library. It is a plea for a social or state policy for agriculture in England rather than an individualistic one. The book is divided into four parts as follows: (1) The State as farmer, (2) Agricultural organisation, (3) Our food supply, and (4) the State as banker, miner, carrier and host. 281 R115



## Autobiography of John Stuart Mill

Members of the Department of Philosophy of Columbia University recently gave the University the manuscript of the Autobiography of John Stuart Mill. It is from this text, without change even of capitalization or punctuation, that this volume has been printed. John Jacob Coss, Associate Professor of Philosophy in Columbia University, writes the preface from which the following is taken: "Mill's autobiography shows, as few books can, the growth of a man in the midst of his age. In many ways it is primarily an account of the social history of England in the first three quarters of the nineteenth century. Yet it is the personal though dispassionate story of the conflict of an integrated spirit with ideas and with the affairs of men. One sees an age, and one sees a man; and both man and age are so a part of our own day that by knowing them we learn to know ourselves." 120 M59

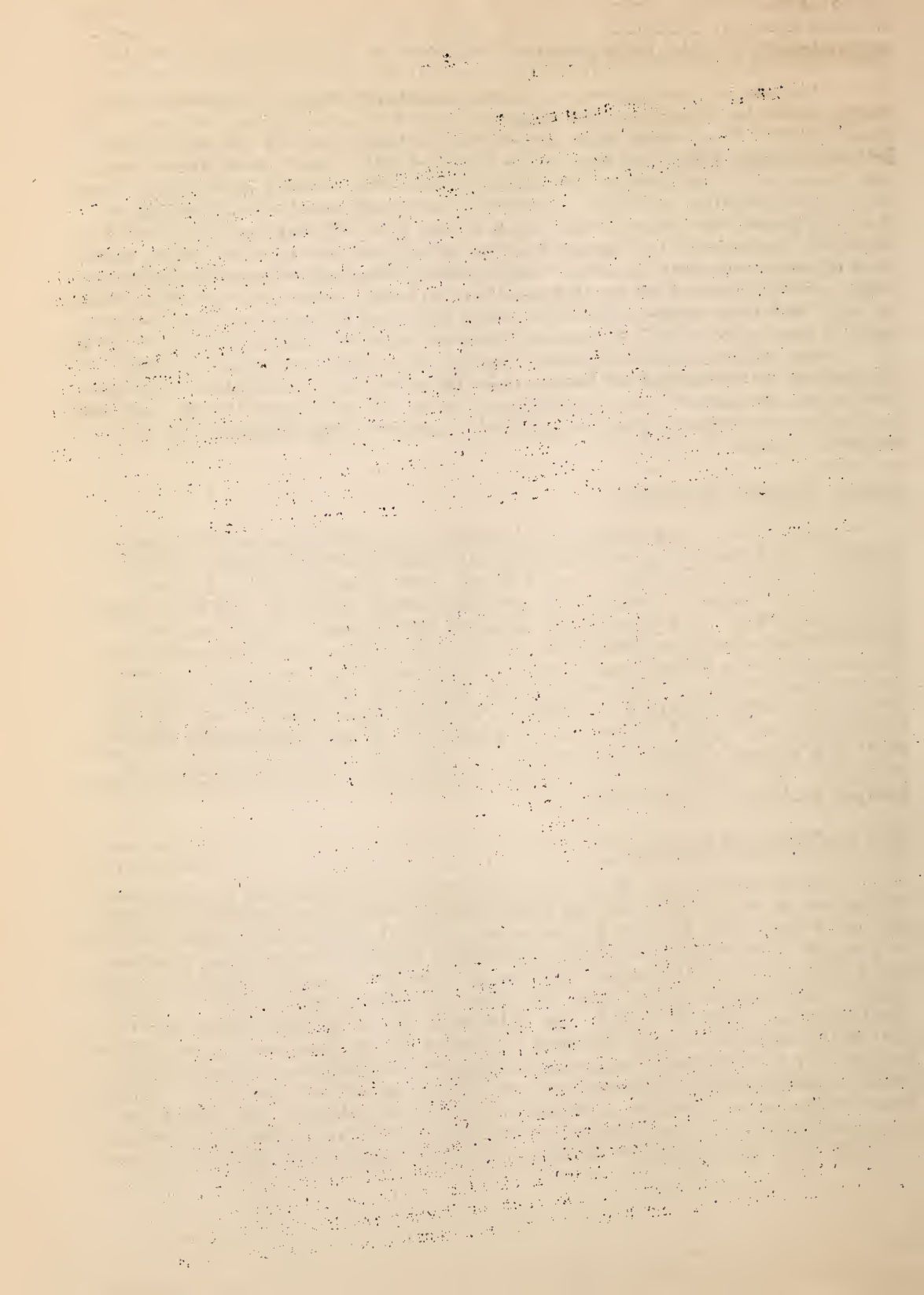
The volume makes delightful reading especially for those who are interested in the effect of reading on the growth and development of a mind. This small volume and the autobiography of Dr. Michael Pupin "From Immigrant to Inventor" certainly provide one with food for "long thoughts" on this subject. L.C.

## Canada. Economic Resources

The third of the reports on economic subjects connected with agriculture, which are being published by the Great Britain Ministry of Agriculture, has been received in the library. It is entitled The Economic Resources of Canada in Relation to Britain's Food Supplies, and was written by Sir Henry Rew. The factors of economic development - land, people, political and social organization, and transportation - are discussed in their relation to Canada, and agricultural development is taken up under the following heads: Crops, Livestock, State aid to agriculture, Economics of wheat growing, Marketing of wheat, Dairying, Beef cattle. The appendices contain the text of the elevator agreement of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the grower's grain pool contract of the Manitoba Cooperative Wheat Producers, the charter of the Canadian Cooperative Wheat Producers and their general by-laws. 280.9 G792 no.3

## Cost of Living in the U. S.

The National Industrial Conference Board has published a volume entitled The Cost of Living in the United States, which has been received by the Department Library. This conference board has published sixteen reports on changes in the cost of living since 1914, "based on continuing observations," besides ten studies of the actual cost of living in separate localities. The foreword states that "In order to clarify the problem of measuring the actual cost of living, the Conference Board in 1921 issued its study of 'Family Budgets of American Wage Earners,' which presented an exhaustive analysis of all available material relating to estimates of actual living costs, family budgets, the standard of living and allied questions. The purpose of the present volume is to afford a similar analysis and comparison of the more important index numbers of the cost of living in the United States, in order that the character and basis of these measures of variations from



time to time and from place to place may be better understood and their intelligent use facilitated. In addition, this volume presents a survey of changes in the cost of living for the United States as a whole during the past decade, summing up in this way the outstanding results of the Conference Board's studies in this field to date." 284.4 N212Co

### English Rural Life and History

Lord Ernle has written a new book called *The Land and its People: Chapters in Rural Life and History*, which has been recently received in the library. Lord Ernle is probably better known to us as Rowland Edmund Prothero, the son of Canon Prothero and the author of *English Farming Past and Present* and various biographical works. His new volume is full of interest, especially the chapter on *Farmers in Politics* which although written in November, 1922, contains much food for thought in relation to present conditions as it lays stress on the difficulty of framing an agricultural policy which will reconcile the divergent interests of farmers in their business with those of taxpayers and consumers. The last chapter in the book, which was also written in 1922, is a forecast for British agriculture. 281 Er6

### Flour Milling

We have recently received a volume entitled *Organization and Management in the Flour Milling Industry* by E. Leigh Pearson, Associate of the City and Guilds of London Institute. The work deals with the administrative side of the flour milling industry and not with the technology of the subject. 298 P31

### History

*The Town Proprietors of the New England Colonies: A Study of their Development, Organization, Activities and Controversies, 1620-1770*, by Roy Hidemichi Akagi. This work was presented to the faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania as a doctor's thesis in history, and bears the imprint date of 1925. It is divided into two parts, the first devoted to *The Town Proprietors* and the second to *Land Speculation in New England in the Eighteenth Century*. It contains an excellent bibliography of 39 pages and an index. 282 Akl

### Imperial Economic Committee Report

The first and second reports of the Imperial Economic Committee have been received. This Committee was appointed March 6, 1925, "To consider the possibilities of improving the methods of preparing for market and marketing within the United Kingdom the food products of the overseas parts of the Empire with a view to increasing the consumption of such products in the United Kingdom in preference to imports from foreign countries, and to promote the interests both of producers and consumers."



The first report is general in character and is divided into three parts, (1) Identification of Empire produce, (2) Research, and (3) Finance, with statistical appendices on imports of foodstuffs into the United Kingdom and exports of United Kingdom produce. Appendix three is devoted to Merchandise Marks legislation and the 1920 Report of the Merchandise Marks Committee.

The second report of the Imperial Economic Committee is devoted to meat. It is presented under the following heads: Meat supply of the United Kingdom, Beef, Mutton and lamb, Pig products, Canned meat and fish. F.F.

### India

Gilbert Slater has written the introductory note to a volume entitled Economic Conditions in India, whose author is P. Padmanabha Pillai. The work is a thesis approved for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of London and is a penetrating study of the economic situation in India today as well as of the causes which have contributed to that condition. Part 2 is divided into two chapters devoted to (1) Agricultural development and (2) Some problems of land and labour. The author shows the place of agriculture in India's economic life, discusses the principal crops - cotton, sugar cane, indigo, and grain - and compares the standard of production with that of other countries. Agriculture in relation to industrial development is also discussed. 277 P64

### Large and Small Scale Farming

Gross-und Kleinbetrieb in der Landwirtschaft, by Paul Pagel, recently received in the library, is a brief review of the most important of the writings of the last decade dealing with the competitive value of farming on a large or a small scale. The conclusion is that no definite, comprehensive statement can be made, but that in general the large farm has the advantage in the production of marketable crops, the smaller one in that of animal products. A. M. Hannay. 33.27 P14

### Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies

The library has received the second report of the British Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies which discusses the bread subsidy which ended in 1921, the wheat executive agreement, and flour mills control. F.F.

### Town-Country Conflict

Roads to Social Peace is the title of a small volume by Dr. E. A. Ross, Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin. The last chapter, which bears the caption The Allaying of Town-Country Conflict, is devoted to a consideration of the underlying causes of this conflict and the means of avoiding it. 280 R73



RECENT PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Problems to be Studied under the Furnell Act.

The opportunities and responsibilities imposed by the Furnell Act, which went into effect July 1, 1925, and the means of meeting them in the most effective way were the subjects discussed by the presidents of the land grant colleges and the directors of the state experiment stations at a special meeting held in St. Louis in April. An excellent review of this meeting may be found in the editorial pages of the Experiment Station Record for April, 1925, from which these notes are taken: "...the Secretary of Agriculture spoke of the gathering as a 'time for counsel and for mutual understanding, a close working together for common ends.' He pointed out that the Furnell Act affords an exceptional opportunity for service, as it is the 'strongest testimony of confidence in the power of organized agricultural research that this or any other government has ever expressed,' but that it carries with it grave responsibilities in which both the stations and the department will share, and in which the need for close cooperation and coordination of effort has become outstanding... The point was made clear that the act is designed to give further aid to a going concern, that it is 'for the more complete endowment and maintenance of agricultural experiment stations now established,' each with an existing organization, administrative machinery, and in large measure the buildings, land, and other basic facilities for research... Another fundamental principle laid down by the Secretary was that the fund should be used primarily for investigations of substantial character. The act 'is a fact-finding, fact-interpreting measure...' As regards subject matter, considerable emphasis was naturally laid on agricultural economics, home economics, and rural sociology... 'Very many of the problems we now face are too large for individual States acting separately. They are regional or even national, and there is danger of viewing them too narrowly.'"

An important outcome of the meeting was the "selection from a large number of projects submitted of six comprehensive problems of national scope in which the stations and the Department of Agriculture might cooperate. These included the distribution and marketing of farm products, the problem of surpluses of farm products, the vitamin content of foods in relation to human nutrition, rural home management studies, rural social organizations and agencies essential to a permanent and efficient agriculture, and factors influencing the production and quality of meats. It will be noted that the first two of these problems lie specifically in the field of agricultural economics, the third and fourth in home economics, the fifth in rural sociology, and the sixth in a branch of production."

The Experiment Station Record for July, 1925, carries another editorial showing the developments since the conference referred to above. Five of the committees appointed by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges to study the problems chosen for first attention by the St. Louis conference met in Washington early in June, canvassed their respective problems, and prepared outlines. "Immediately thereafter the joint committee of the association and the Department on projects and correlation of research assembled, received the reports, and eventually, after discussion with the committees, approved the outlines as a basis for projects to be undertaken by cooperative effort. The outlines were then transmitted to station directors and heads of bureaus

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. It begins with the first settlers who came to the Americas, and continues through the years of exploration, settlement, and the struggle for independence. The story is one of a people who have built a great nation from a small group of pioneers. The history of the United States is a story of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. It is a story of the courage and determination of a people who have faced many challenges and have always emerged stronger and more united. The history of the United States is a story of the power of the American dream. It is a story of the hope and aspiration of a people who have always believed in a better future. The history of the United States is a story of the strength of the American people. It is a story of the resilience and endurance of a nation that has always been able to overcome its enemies and its challenges. The history of the United States is a story of the greatness of the American people. It is a story of the achievements and accomplishments of a nation that has always been at the forefront of progress and innovation. The history of the United States is a story of the love and unity of the American people. It is a story of the bonds that have held this great nation together through the years. The history of the United States is a story of the future of the American people. It is a story of the promise and potential of a nation that is always looking forward to a brighter tomorrow. The history of the United States is a story of the power of the American people. It is a story of the courage and determination of a people who have always been able to overcome their enemies and their challenges. The history of the United States is a story of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. It is a story of the hope and aspiration of a people who have always believed in a better future. The history of the United States is a story of the strength of the American people. It is a story of the resilience and endurance of a nation that has always been able to overcome its enemies and its challenges. The history of the United States is a story of the greatness of the American people. It is a story of the achievements and accomplishments of a nation that has always been at the forefront of progress and innovation. The history of the United States is a story of the love and unity of the American people. It is a story of the bonds that have held this great nation together through the years. The history of the United States is a story of the future of the American people. It is a story of the promise and potential of a nation that is always looking forward to a brighter tomorrow.

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in the expectation that each station would select whatever problems or phases thereof it might desire to engage in, having regard to its local conditions and such matters as funds, personnel, and special facilities. The projects when selected were then to be submitted to the Office of Experiment Stations in the usual way... The committee on the problem of the distribution and marketing of farm products submitted an extensive program. It believed that for the present the greatest advantage would lie in the development of research along three main lines, the problem of marketing and distributing livestock and its products, cotton, grain, fruits and vegetables, and dairy products; studies of cooperative marketing associations; and studies of the requirements of consumer areas. For livestock alone fourteen subjects of inquiry were suggested, of which those recommended as of more immediate importance deal with seasonal movement to market, channels of marketing, business organization and the management of individual marketing agencies, prices, market requirements as a factor in the selection of a market, trends of production and consumption, forecasts, and adjustments. For most of these the cooperation of the Department and the stations was advocated.

"As regards the marketing of cotton, two cooperative projects were considered for early action. One of these would deal with studies of equipment and ginning practices and the other with local marketing practices. It was pointed out that in such studies cooperation would be a most effective line of attack, since the participation of a number of cotton-producing States would extend the scope of the studies and give to the findings a regional rather than a more or less localized significance. Likewise it was thought that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics might render assistance not otherwise obtainable through its facilities for the expert grading of samples and in similar ways.

"In the marketing of fruits and vegetables, the committee saw a special opportunity for cooperative effort between States having within their borders large consuming centers and those which send vast quantities of produce to distant markets. Here again it was thought that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics might be of much assistance, both because of the very considerable amount of information which it has already assembled and because of its unique position as an inspection and statistical agency in the larger markets... Somewhat the same considerations also apply in the studies of the marketing of grain and in lesser degree to work with dairy products... The fifth committee, that on rural social organizations and agencies essential to a permanent and efficient agriculture, reported that it conceives the field of investigation in rural social organization as the study of those rural institutions, organizations, and relationships whose progressive adaptation and integration make possible the maintenance of an adequate rural life. The committee recognized the importance of several lines of research already inaugurated by different stations in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, among them those phases of the standard of living which relate to community institutions and services and the study of rural municipalities, and commended their further development and support. As new projects it suggested studies of young people's organizations as a factor in rural life; factors influencing the effective location of rural groups in relation to topography, geography, lines and channels of transportation and communication, and economic and social services; and the composition and changes of the rural population."



## Russia and the Peasant

Vladimir Zenzinov, long a member of the Russian Socialist Revolutionary Party, is the author of an article in Foreign Affairs for October, 1925, entitled The Bolsheviks and the Peasant. The author writes: "What is there new in the peasant policy of the Soviet Government?... Until 1917... the Bolshevik program embodied the conceptions of a commonplace variety of Marxism, according to which the peasantry were, first and last, a class of petty bourgeoisie, alien and antagonistic not only to Socialist ideals but to all social progress... Strengthening the petty peasant would mean hampering the inevitable social progress. The only thing the Socialist party could do for the peasant - said the Bolsheviks - was to help organize the paid agricultural laborers..."

"In 1905 the Bolsheviks were forced to make large concessions in this question. The peasantry, of whom they had thought up to this time as a purely reactionary class socially as well as politically, showed that they were a powerful revolutionary force. Indeed, the movement of 1905-6... was largely a peasant movement. The Bolsheviks grasped this and made a change in their tactics in regard to the peasants, but only in their tactics, not in their program... Then came the year 1917. Contrary to the ordinary conception, the real revolution at that time was not made in the cities, but in the villages. The essential content of the Russian revolution was the tremendous, elemental process which took place among the peasants and resulted in the disruption of the landed estates, the expulsion of the landed proprietors, most of them belonging to the nobility, from their villages, and the forcible appropriation of all private and state lands by the peasants. The thing that many had foreseen as inevitable, namely the satisfaction of the peasant's age-long thirst for the land, took place in an elemental way..."

"In 1917, as in 1905, the Bolsheviks grasped correctly the significance of what had happened. They saw that the only way for them to keep in power and to strengthen themselves in it, was by staying on the crest of the revolutionary wave. With the greatest haste - literally on the morrow of their coup d'etat - they promulgated a decree which contained a project of socialization of the land previously prepared, but not yet definitely worked out, by the Socialist-Revolutionaries. This decree did not regulate the agrarian question on a country-wide scale, but simply sanctioned and ratified the wholesale seizure and partition of land already carried out by the peasants. By this means the Bolsheviks achieved their purpose. They neutralized the peasant politically..."

"What was the further peasant policy of the Soviet Government? At first, it bore a perfectly consistent and typical Marxist character. All the Bolsheviks wanted from the peasant was for him to help aggravate the class struggle. For this purpose the famous 'Committees of the Destitute' were created all over the country, made up of needy peasants and farm-laborers... The Committees of the Destitute had but one purpose, namely, to sequester for the benefit of the city population and city proletariat the grain produced by the more well-to-do peasants... The result could be easily foreseen - civil war on a vast scale throughout the country... It lasted for three whole years over the entire boundless expanse of Russia. It brought ruin, curtailment of areas under cultivation, the nightmare of the famine of 1920-21, and never-ceasing peasant uprisings which the Soviet Government drowned in rivers of blood by means of its well organized police forces. This could not continue indefinitely, for even the fanatics of civil war



had their eyes opened, especially after such threatening events as the wholesale peasant revolt in the government of Tambov and the sailors' revolt in Kronstadt in the spring of 1921.

"The peasant policy of the Bolsheviks had to be revised. This was done by Lenin who, with his characteristic crude frankness, explained the reasons for such a revision. In April, 1921, he made his famous speech on the product tax, thereby initiating the New Economic Policy...which so far as the peasant was concerned took the less onerous form of a product tax. The Soviet Government had at last divined that if you want to get eggs you must not kill the hen that lays them. The Committees of the Destitute were relegated to the background... Gradually one clear and simple thought came to dominate the consciousness of the country: the destinies of Russia depended entirely on the reconstruction of peasant industry...

"And now we are witnessing a great object lesson. Apparently forgetting all of their Marxist dogma, the responsible Soviet leaders are beginning to reiterate the ABC of an economic policy which, from their lips, sounds as if it were a new gospel. Intensification of village production is the aim to which every effort of the Soviet reconstruction campaign must be bent. The Government must by all means help increase the welfare of the diligent, prosperous peasant... These appeals do not remain mere propaganda. They are being made the cornerstone of a practical peasant policy. On April 18 the Soviet of People's Commissars decreed 'Provisional rules for the hire of auxiliary labor in agriculture.' These new rules mean a break with the entire recent past of the Bolsheviks. They sanction officially hired labor in peasant agriculture, and at that, they set no limitations to the number of persons hired. Thereby they not only permit, they assist in the development of capitalistic relations in rural economy...

"So it came about that life has made sport of the Bolshevik Communists. When at last they grasped that the foundation of Russia's welfare lies in the development of the productivity of her peasantry, and that there is no other way to the economic reconstruction of the country except by raising the general standard of village life, they became plus royalistes que le roi même... After eight years of government experience, they have learned that all this policy was nothing but cheap demagogy, and that the economic policy of a state demands something different. In a country where the peasant population is in a huge majority, no policy can be effectual that is not based on peasant interests... But they have at last understood that their power will have no economic foundation unless they secure command of the national economy, and that this can be only peasant economy...

"What do we understand by making the interest of the peasantry the foundation of policy? Certainly it is something more than mere cooperation in the enrichment of the peasant, for which Bukharin appealed. It means an appreciation of the fact that it is the Government's duty to meet half-way and satisfy the social and political demands of the peasant. In other words, more than purely economic measures are required. He must be granted the freedom of individual and personal initiative and the opportunity to intensify his productivity by hiring labor. He must have the right of free, unhampered cooperative association... Freedom of economic determination is inseparably linked up with civic rights and with the possibility of influencing and determining the social and political life of the commonwealth. The peasant must feel that he is a full-fledged citizen with rights equal to those



of the city dwellers. In his village he must feel that the central power is closely related to him, and he must trust it and be assured that it stands watch over his interests.

"Can the peasant thus regard the Soviet Government? To formulate this question is to answer it in the negative. The Soviet press itself is full of facts which prove this. It harps upon the lack of connection between the peasant and the Soviet power, upon the distrust and even animosity of the village masses toward the Communists, upon the chasm existing between the villages and the cities, which latter, in the opinion of the peasant, are inhabited only by Bolsheviks... The Russian peasant as he is today and the Soviet Government as it now exists are two incompatible things. This is a matter of common knowledge to all who are familiar with the actual state of affairs in Russia, - on which there can be no dispute... Russia has become even more a country of peasants and of agriculture than she was before 1917...

"In spite of the danger of prophesying, one can foretell even now that Russia will be reborn - indeed is already being reborn - as a great peasant democracy. In eastern Europe an enormous new Denmark is evidently destined to arise. The Soviet Government, in whose hands are the keys of the life of the great country, is vaguely conscious of this. It is disturbed by the inevitable internal and external development of the peasant democracy, and is trying to establish its own ascendancy by flirting with the peasantry, with the hope that at the price of trifling concessions it may retain the whole power in its hands. Everything indicates that the attempt will not be successful. The only question of importance is, how long the process of natural growth will take. The rock itself yields and crumbles under the living pressure of the roots of a growing tree."

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*Mary E. Lacy*

Librarian,  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



October 27, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

No. 26

Feature of this Issue: SIGNED REVIEWS BY  
CAROLINE B. SHERMAN AND A. M. HANNAY.

## A DOZEN THINGS BUREAU WORKERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE BUREAU LIBRARY

1. The library of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is the Economics branch of the Department library.

2. Salaries and equipment are provided from Bureau funds. Books and periodicals have to be purchased from the Department library appropriation, and are the property of the Department library.

3. The catalogue of the Department library includes everything filed in the Bureau libraries, of which there are eight.

4. Bureau libraries are maintained in order to provide special reference assistance in the subject matter which is the concern of the Bureau, and for the convenience of Bureau workers by having close at hand the material (books and periodicals) constantly needed by them.

5. The collection of domestic and foreign agricultural statistics in the Bureau library is generally conceded to be the most complete in this country. The library contains also much material on economics, cooperation, marketing, rural economics, land and rent, labor and wages, and finance.

6. The Bureau library is organized to serve the Bureau (1) by direct reference and bibliographical work in response to specific requests, (2) by the circulation of books and periodicals covering the subject matter with which the different offices and divisions are working, (3) by the systematic acquisition of the material which makes possible the two types of service noted above, and (4) by compiling in advance of demand, when possible, comprehensive bibliographies and summaries of data.

7. The Bureau library receives 1500 periodicals. The majority of these circulate to Bureau workers. Some of them go to as many as 16 offices and within each of these offices they may be used by a number of persons. The careful, detailed work incident to their circulation is very great, because we must know at all times where a periodical is, so that it can be procured if needed. In addition to the 1500 periodicals and newspapers received by the Bureau library, we can draw also upon the large number received by the Department library.

8. The Congressional Record is read every day when Congress is in session and indexed for material of interest to the Bureau. Bills, resolutions and acts are obtained as soon as available, indexed, and made ready for use. A weekly trip is made to the Library of the Superintendent of Documents in order to keep a check on all Congressional hearings.

9. The library maintains a record of field station libraries. There are 70 of these, comprising 846 books and 236 periodicals and newspapers. In addition the library tries to serve the field men so far as possible by compiling needed reading lists and looking up specific information when requested. Books in the Bureau library, which are needed by field men in their work and which they can not obtain from local libraries, are sent by mail on request if they can be spared by the Washington workers.

10. The Bureau library issues mimeographed bibliographies approximately once a month in the Bureau series called Agricultural Economics Bibliographies. Seven titles have appeared in this series to date. In addition we have compiled five of the Bibliographical Contributions of the Department library.

11. The Bureau library maintains a mailing list for its bibliographies. If you care to have your name placed on it, let us know.

12. The Bureau library is here to serve. Let us know your needs. We may not be able to do what you want but we may - and knowing your wants is of the greatest assistance in making plans for constructive and aggressive library work.

### NEW BOOKS

#### German Trade Policy

The library has recently acquired *Die Zukunft der Deutschen Handelspolitik*, by Bernhard Harms, published in Jena in 1925. The author is professor of economics at Kiel University and director of the Institut für Weltwirtschaft und Seeverkehr, University of Kiel.

This work in two volumes, of which the first only has appeared, contains a discussion of the trade policy of Germany from the standpoint of a professor. Vol. 1 opens with a very interesting and succinct survey of tariff legislation in Germany during the nineteenth century, from the Prussian law of May 26, 1818, which introduced the first free trade tariff of Europe, to the tariff law of 1902. It sketches the protective policy of Bismarck which culminated in the tariff law of 1879; the policy of Caprivi, in accordance with which Germany entered into commercial treaties with various European countries and which was a consequence of the country's having become predominantly an industrial instead of an agricultural country; and the policy of Bülow which in the main continued that of Caprivi. Both men recognized that German industry and German agriculture were equally important for the economic development of the country, but Caprivi believed that agriculture was so firmly entrenched that it could afford to give the advantage to industry, while Bülow held the view that industry was strong enough and that agriculture ought to be protected. The author concludes that the tariff of 1902, in force since 1906, has not hindered the development of German exportation.

The circumstances arising out of the war and the results of the war are next dealt with. The desperate measures adopted by Germany between the signing of the treaty of Versailles and the adoption of the Dawes plan are briefly sketched. On January 10, 1925, Germany was faced with the problem of reorganizing her whole trade policy. The tariff law of December 25, 1902, had suffered countless modifications. The number of import prohibitions was still

legion; export prohibitions were fewer in number; a number of commercial treaties had been concluded. The situation was one of chaos, and one of the contributing factors was the action taken by the government in the summer of 1924 in preparation for a new tariff law. A large part of the book is devoted to a discussion of Germany's future trade policy. The author thinks that the events of recent years have mutilated and in part destroyed German political economy; that they have thrust the German people into a state of poverty not yet wholly realized. Because of these facts the author thinks that Germany's main task now is to make possible the rebirth of German political economy, to increase her productiveness at any price and in the shortest possible time, for poverty, unemployment, and hunger are politically, sociologically, intellectually, and racially destructive. The trade policy of Germany is one means to this end.

After briefly outlining the views of economists in pre-war times as to the best means of increasing the productiveness of the country, the author points out that the struggle in the immediate past was not between agriculture and industry, for industry had gained the upper hand. The point at issue was then, as it still is today, the advisability and the possibility of maintaining an efficient agriculture together with a highly developed industry.

From the author's point of view agriculture is the backbone of the German nation; it is the rock upon which the whole economic structure is built. His ideal for his country is a strong, well-developed agrarian economy. He believes that the farmer can bring about greater happiness for society in the present and greater security in the future than can any other class of men that live by the labor of their hands. Moreover, the nation that can supply her own physical needs is more independent and more capable of resistance than the nation that must depend on others for the necessities of life. The industrial country that is not self-sufficient is in constant danger. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Germany produced almost all the raw material she needed. But long before the war it had become necessary for her to import much of what she needed for her manufactures, a condition which has become exaggerated since the war. There is no doubt in the author's mind, however, that the war and post-war damage to agriculture can be undone within ten years and the ground be made as productive as formerly. However, at this time Germany has twenty million more people than she can support. Hence she must develop her industries and her export trade. The need for money is also a factor in the urge towards industrialism. Germany is much poorer since the war; taxation is almost unbearably heavy; reparations must be paid. Industry is the only solution. Germany must not relax her efforts to maintain her agriculture at its pre-war standard, but she must also shoulder the cross of an increased industrialism, and she must have a market, if she would issue victorious from the depths into which she has sunk. Therefore she must develop her export trade, and an incentive to this is the hope that industrial export will lead in course of time to a renewed home market. The greater the development of industry, the more favorable is the reaction on agriculture. The two are marvellously knit together.

A chapter on free trade and protection follows, after which the author discusses agricultural tariffs. As far as grain is concerned, he thinks that for the present the reintroduction of an import tariff would be uneconomical. What will be done in the future must depend upon production in Eastern Europe -

particularly in Russia - the amount of consumption, and the stability of the price in the world market, which is largely influenced by the size of the harvest. For not longer than a year a temporary tariff with a fixed limit of increase may be necessary, to be renewed at the will of the Reichstag. In any case it is essential that a tariff be for the benefit of those who produce the grain. In the case of livestock, also, a tariff is advisable only under certain circumstances. The essential problem of livestock raising lies in its too great development in the face of the decreased domestic purchasing power. Even were it possible to shut out foreign competition by means of import prohibitions or tariffs, the disparity between supply and demand in the home market would not disappear. The only solution in the case of the German livestock situation is the increased consumption of meat, which can only be made possible by increased industrialism. Besides improvement of quality in the meat, the lowering of the cost of production to the minimum is necessary. This means, on the one hand, strict free trade for fodder and, on the other, the lowering of industrial tariffs.

The policy of recent years, which has resulted disastrously, has been to open the German market to foreign agricultural products and to prohibit the export of German agricultural products. One can not deny to German agriculture protection against decreasing world market prices and at the same time prevent its sharing in increasing prices. Playing with export prohibitions is useless at the present time. Free price development must be acquiesced in or the whole system of free agrarian economy will fall to pieces. Industrial export is the solution of the future. As things are in Germany today, a high protective tariff for industry and free trade for agriculture must lead to unbearable conditions which will threaten her whole economic structure. The logical remedy would seem to be the lowering of the industrial tariff. There can, of course, be no sudden change. Suggestions as to method are discussed in the second volume of this work. A. M. Hannay. 286 H224 v.1.

### Land Tenure and Unemployment

The library has recently received Land Tenure and Unemployment by Frank Geary. The London Spectator for August 29, 1925, reviews it as follows: The author "is quite sure that all the evils which afflict civilization, especially in this country, are due to one great and continuing social curse, the curse of land monopoly; and by this book he will destroy it. That at any rate is his hope. With immense industry and indefatigable zeal he has traced the growth of the present land system from Saxon times to the present day. Domesday Book, and the old Norman Manor and the Black Death, and the Enclosures and the Increase of Game in the Nineteenth Century, and the example of Denmark and the theories of Prince Kropotkin and Sir Rider Haggard, are all, as he thinks, contributions to his argument. Proof is piled on proof; and at last, on page 242, Mr. Geary writes: 'Now that we have ascertained the cause of unemployment, the remedy is clear. The land monopoly must be broken down, and labour must be afforded free and equal access to all land, so that it may be possible for a man to supply his own demands for goods by producing directly from the land, by linking his labour with the opportunities which the land provides.' It sounds magnificent, but how it is to be done, and what exactly Mr. Geary means by it is never adequately explained."

## Marketing Machinery and Food Buying

Food Buying and Our Markets, by Day Munroe and Lenore Monroe Stratton, divides into two parts, for it aims to give housekeepers a more thorough understanding of our marketing machinery and to provide a short cut to knowledge regarding wise buying of food. The first part gives background principles and information; the second part gives specific instructions on how to buy.

Here is the work that has been long needed: a statement of the principles that underlie present-day marketing and a description and analysis of our marketing machinery as it exists, with the reasons and the results actually written from the buying consumer's viewpoint. This interpretation and viewpoint constitute the authors' contribution to the subject. There is not much in the text that is new, save results of investigations conducted by the senior author when teaching food marketing at Teachers' College, but the method of approach and statement is new and needed. To think these things through from the consumer's standpoint, when nearly every adequate study regarding them has been conducted from the other standpoint, is no small task.

The thoroughly-informed reasoning of the book places several groups in debt to the authors. Their statement of the farmers' case is exceedingly fair. Their discussion of evils of overproduction and need for adjustment of production to demand is doubly valuable for occurring in a consumer text, as also their unbiased judgement that the marketing machinery is meeting the needs of the consumer rather more adequately than it is meeting the needs of the farmer. The middleman and the cold storage operator receive the same fair-minded consideration. Straight thinking persists through to many details, as their accurate distinction between grading and standardization, between grades and brands, between grades and nutritive value.

Federal aids to marketing are woven into the very fabric of the book, as they should be, for in most of the industries this aid has now become an inherent part of the machinery. Yet for those who may miss this element that permeates the whole there is a quick and appreciative survey of what the Federal Government has done to aid farms and markets, with reference to the advantages in "our present governmental attitude of aiding through laws, regulations, education and research."

The authors believe that probably the greatest need at present is for an understanding on the part of housekeepers as to what services they are receiving and a realization that these are costly. This is the book that we have been waiting for to take an active, direct part in bringing about that understanding and that realization. Caroline B. Sherman. 389 M75.

## Russia

The library has received the Official Report of the British Trades Union Delegation to Russia in November and December, 1924. This is a volume of 250 pages which are devoted to General conditions including agriculture, Labour conditions, Special institutions and industries, and a Report on Transcaucasia. 267 T67

## PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### Agriculture and Politics in England

The Agricultural Argument is the title of an article by D. H. Macgregor in the Economic Journal (London) for September, 1925. The author shows the political implication of much that has been written in relation to the present situation of British agriculture and considers as "sheer libel" the use of such phrases as "the worst" or even "among the worst" in the world in speaking of British farming "with its great history and its great contributions to agricultural method."

### Economic Research Bureaus

Professor Z. Clark Dickinson of the University of Michigan is the author of an article entitled "Bureaux for Economic and 'Business' Research in American Universities," which has been published in the Economic Journal for September, 1925. The article is a comprehensive review of the general characteristics of the institutional research movement, as well as an enumeration of the types of research being carried on. The article contains a useful "Bibliographical note" which lists the institutions which maintain these economic research bureaus.

### Rocky Mountain Region as Economic Unit

The University of Denver, Bureau of Statistical Research, is publishing the University of Denver Business Review, which is received each month in the library. This publication "presents analyses of individual series and has already covered the following: Bank clearings, Building permits, Coal production, Cattle and sheep marketing, Gas and electricity consumption, and Pig iron production. The trend, seasonal variation, and cycle are derived in each case and comparison made of the regional situation with the country as a whole... For purposes of analysis of economic and social welfare, the Rocky Mountain Region probably offers as clear a story of related elements as is available. Denver is a cosmopolitan center with an extensive hinterland, reaching into eight or more states." - Jour. Amer. Statistical Assoc. Sept., 1925, p. 435 and 436.

### Russia's Industrial Programme

The Monthly Supplement to the Economist (London) dated Sept. 26, 1925, which is devoted to the trade situation in Great Britain and abroad, contains an article entitled Russia's Industrial Programme, from which the following excerpt is taken:

"The Russian business year dates from October 1st. As big industry is almost wholly conducted by the State, precise plans, or 'programmes,' as with the State undertakings of non-Socialist countries, must be prepared in advance; and in the late summer these programmes appear. The programmes are nothing less than little Budgets, giving the coming business year's volume of production, receipts, expenditure, and sometimes even prices and wages; and with

them are usually published, for comparison, preceding years' programmes and their fulfilment. The programmes for the coming business year 1925-26 are very optimistic, in that nearly all of them provide for greatly increased, sometimes doubled, output, so that if only expectations are realised industrial production as a whole will be within sight of that of 1913 (on the present national area). The official reports state that the fulfilment of the 1924-25 programmes was satisfactory, and improved from month to month being as high as 98 per cent. in some important branches, and over 100 per cent. for short periods. How far official statistics are reliable will not be considered here. The fact that they are extremely minute and voluminous does not help, but rather hinders, analysis. The official Ekonomicheskaya Zhizn (June 1, 1925) exposes inconsistencies between the figures for the same industries issued by different departments; and suspicion is aroused by the fact that whereas two departments' valuations of combined outputs of 15 branches agree closely, the figures for some of the separate branches differ materially. It should not, however, be presumed that the whole elaborate system of Soviet statistics has for years past been erroneous or fraudulent; and a very marked recovery of industry since 1920 must be taken as a fact.

"The programme for 1925-26 assumes not only a great increase in the State industries' output, but also an increase in their share in the total output. The...figures give a very favourable picture of recovery. But it must be noted that, after an almost complete collapse, even a very moderate absolute increase involves a high percentage increase... Most of the programmes make fulfilment contingent upon increased capital expenditure; and it is not always clear whence the capital is to come. Making, however, a liberal allowance for errors and undue optimism, it seems certain that Russian industry is moving towards restoration."

### Tobacco and Cooperation

The history of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association is given in an article entitled Cooperation in the Blue-Grass, by Harry A. Barth of the University of Oklahoma, which appeared in the Journal of Political Economy for August, 1925. The author concludes that the technique of organization has been good. The policy has been unfortunate.

### NOTES

Castlio, Ianetra.

A folk tale of Johnny Appleseed. (Missouri historical review, v. 19, no.4, July, 1925. p.630-653)

Cooperation in the United States. Based on official sources. Designed as a textbook on cooperation for farmers, bankers, students, editors, and others. Showing the advantages and limitations of cooperation. Printed and sold by the Grain Dealers National Association, Toledo, Ohio, 1925.

Dunlop, W. R.

A contribution to the study of London's retail meat trade. (Economic Journal, v.35, no.139. Sept., 1925, p.416-428)

Edgeworth, F. Y.

The plurality of index numbers. (Economic Journal v.35, no. 139, Sept., 1925, p.379-388)

Hicks, John D.

The Farmers' alliance in North Carolina. (North Carolina historical review, v. 2, April, 1925, p.162-187)

Hughes, Edward.

The English monopoly of salt in the years 1563-71. (English historical review, v.40, no. 159, July, 1925, p.334-350)

Kuhlmann, Charles B.

The influence of the Minneapolis flour mills upon the economic development of Minnesota and the Northwest. (Minnesota history, v. 6, June, 1925, p.141-154.)

O'Brien, George.

Dr. Samuel Johnson as an economist. (Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review, v.14, no. 53, March, 1925, p.80-101)

Roberts, A. Sellew.

High prices and the blockade in the Confederacy. (South Atlantic Quarterly, v. 24, no. 2, April, 1925, p.154-163)

Summers, Floyd G.

Charles V. Riley, benefactor of agriculture. (Missouri historical review, v. 19, no.4, July, 1925, p.611-621)

Rural Report of the Liberal Land Committee 1923 - 1925.

After the stencil for this Library Supplement had been cut the report, noted above, was received in the Library. Its title is The Land and the Nation (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1 shilling). There are four parts to the report. The first states the problem and the urgent reasons for seeking a solution. The second contains a detailed survey of facts. The third deals with land tenure and the fourth sets out the policy which the Land committee puts forward. This policy is that "the State is to assist a tenant to buy out the landlord ... by an annuity either in perpetuity or for a number of years." (Economist, London. Sept. 26, 1925) "Broadly speaking, the State would resume in actual fact what it had always held in principle - its right to the lordship of the soil ... To the farmer and labourer the policy would be a Magna Charta. There would be complete security of tenure for the farmer, who could only be dispossessed for one reason - bad farming and requirements of State." (Daily Telegraph. London. Aug. 4, 1925) 281 G797

*Mary G. Lacey*

Librarian,  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 24, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

No. 27

Features of this Issue: LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE WORK IN THE  
BUREAU LIBRARY  
SIGNED REVIEWS BY O. C. STINE AND  
A. M. HANNAY

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE WORK IN BUPEAU LIBRARY

On December 7th, 1925, the 69th Congress will convene. At that time the library will resume the legislative service which was begun by the library of the Bureau of Markets and has been continued ever since. This service consists in reading and indexing the Congressional Record daily for items of interest to the Bureau, the index being circulated to the persons concerned, and in keeping on file committee hearings, bills, resolutions, etc.

The Congressional Record is received the first thing each morning. It is promptly read for speeches, references to bills, or anything else of interest to the Bureau. These items are listed alphabetically by subject in a typewritten list, a copy of which is sent to the office of the chief and to Division leaders and others to whose work an item may pertain. The library would be glad to know of bills in which any office is particularly interested so that references to such bills may be called to the attention of that office.

After reading the Record an order is sent to the Division of Publications for the bills pertaining to the Bureau's work which were introduced or reported the preceding day. When the bills are received they are filed in binders with other bills on the same subject. This file includes bills as early as the 62d Congress (1911). The number of subjects included has increased constantly with the changing scope of the Bureau's work.

Toward the end of the 67th Congress a card index to the bill file was begun. This contains cards giving the title and history of the bills which are filed by the Senate and House numbers - the history being kept up to date by the daily reading of the Record - and a subject index which makes it possible to locate bills by subject, short title, or by the name of the introducer if the bill comes to be known by his name.

Hearings of interest to the Bureau are also kept on file in the library. Until recently it has been difficult to obtain these promptly as there was no way of finding out regularly and promptly when they were printed, but through the cooperation of the Library of the Office of the Superintendent of Documents it is now possible to check over the hearings just printed which they receive each week. The hearings are then requested from the Committee and in this way it is possible to keep the file more nearly up to date.

A complete list of members of the 69th Congress together with a statement of the organization of the Senate and the tentative organization of the House, are given in the issue of the Congressional Digest for March, 1925, and the December issue will contain the President's message and other news of the opening of the session. This magazine is on file in the library.

Miss Emily L. Day (Room 308) is in charge of the legislative work and may be called by telephone on Branch 279.

#### SIGNED REVIEWS

##### Agricultural History.

The library received during the summer A History of Agriculture in Europe and America by N. S. B. Gras, Professor of Economic History at the University of Minnesota. The title does not give a very definite idea of the character of the book. In the preface the author states that "it is meant only to describe for general and collegiate use some of the more important developments in the history of rural life in Europe and in America." It might have been appropriately entitled "A Chapter in the History of Agriculture and Rural Life in Europe and in America."

The author approaches the subject from the point of view of a general economic historian who is interested in agriculture. The first chapter deals with the general stages of economic development and the second with the early stages of agriculture. These two chapters would fit into the introduction of any textbook on economic history. It is of interest, however, to note how the author correlates agricultural development with general economic development. In general, it may be said that the correlation of the stages of agricultural development with those of the general economic development is the theme which forms the thread of unity throughout the book.

About half of the book is devoted to rural life in Europe. There are chapters dealing with Roman agrarian history; the medieval manor; peasant revolts; metropolitan and national economy in England; enclosures, chiefly in England; the agricultural revolution, chiefly in England; and the physiocrats - agriculture enthroned in France. The subjects of these chapters indicate fairly well the scope and character of this part of the book. There is an interesting chapter dealing with the history of property in land, which includes the land policy and the growth of landlordism in the United States with a discussion of property in land in Europe.

The author's view as to the relation of agriculture to the economic development of Europe is very well illustrated in his explanation of the cause of the fall of Rome, and later by his discussion of the relation of modern agriculture to the metropolitan and national economy in England. With reference to Rome he says: "The immediate issue is, whether Rome fell because agriculture declined or agriculture declined because Rome fell. It seems more likely that the second view is the correct one." Some others attribute the fall to the decline in agriculture. He admits that changes in agriculture contributed to the decline but states that, "Fundamentally, however, it seems that agriculture drew back into a clam-like seclusion, changed from commercial to subsistence agriculture, because the Roman Empire was a dying institution... When towns decayed the Empire declined. And with them agriculture descended to its lowest depths." In the discussion of the development of metropolitan and national economy in England, the author presents the effect of the growth of a large city or metropolitan center upon agriculture. This is one of the most interesting chapters in the book. In it he shows how the growth of a city together with improved facilities for transportation and communication, develops a market for an ever widening area of agricultural production. This brings many farmers into competition and tends to develop high degrees of specialization. As the metropolitan center begins to draw products from areas beyond the national boundaries, a conflict of interest arises between the domestic agricultural producers and the consumers in the city. Farm producers want protection while city consumers want free trade. The great issue becomes "whether the nation shall be agricultural, industrial, or maintain a balance." According to the author the growth of the city is the dynamic factor in the development which he describes. Others would emphasize the importance of improvements in agricultural production and in transportation as factors in the growth of the city.

Readers will find something of interest in the discussion of the history of American agriculture. In this section, as in the European section, the development of agriculture is described by stages. There is a little more description of agriculture and of agricultural operations than is to be found in the European section. Social and political aspects of our agricultural development receive much more attention than the technical or economic aspects. In the summary the author says: "In material aspects, American agriculture has been a success, though not an unqualified success; in higher things, it has been a failure, an almost unqualified failure." This is a challenging note. The author further says: "The future rests with the new business-type of farmer who may emancipate the countryside from its parasitic dependence on the town and give it pride in its own inherent wealth and beauty."

In conclusion it may be said that the reader who is looking for a consecutive story of agricultural development, including the progress of agricultural technique, changes in volume or character of production, or methods of marketing will be disappointed, but the reader who is interested in the social and political aspects of rural life will find many interesting chapters in this book.

O. C. Stine. 280 G76

The History of Agriculture in the Northern United States, 1620-1860, by Percy W. Bidwell and J. I. Falconer, will be reviewed in the next issue of the Library Supplement.

## Switzerland

Economie Rurale de la Petite et Moyenne Culture, by Dr. Ernest Laur, director of the Union Suisse des Paysans and professor in the École Polytechnique Fédérale of Switzerland, has been received in the library. This is the first edition in French (1924) of this work, the German edition of which has been used as a textbook since 1906 in Swiss schools of agriculture.

The aim of the book is to smooth the path of the student of agriculture, by familiarizing him with the background and the nomenclature of his chosen profession, and to suggest to the agriculturist methods whereby he may make his work more productive and more profitable.

The evolution of agriculture from the very primitive conditions of the stone age to the highly developed systems which form part of the world economy of the present day is very briefly traced. The fundamental principles of political economy are outlined and discussed, and a brief sketch is given of the present economic régime which is characterized by specialization and interdependence of units. Agriculture and agricultural economics are defined and the contributing factors of agricultural production - such as nature; labor; capital, including land, buildings, stock, equipment - are enumerated and discussed.

Chapter 3 is devoted to a discussion of the component factors of agricultural enterprise, the procuring of the necessary capital and credit, the choice and purchase of the farm, its organization, equipment, and cultivation, and the necessity for personal, intelligent, and detailed supervision on the part of the farmer.

Marketing problems are briefly dealt with including transportation, cooperation, tariff, monopoly and other conditions that influence prices. The success of the whole enterprise is measured by the return it brings to the owner. Gross and net receipts are distinguished, and attention is drawn to the economic revenue by which is meant the return to the farmer, to the state, and to any others concerned.

Finally, it is pointed out that in Switzerland even the very small farmer has been able by rigid economy to save a small proportion of his earnings, a fact which augurs well for the future prosperity of the country.

A.M. Hannay. 281 L37E

## NEW BOOKS

### Anglo-American Trade

The Development of the Organization of Anglo-American Trade 1800-1850, by Norman Sydney Buck, Assistant Professor of Political Economy at Yale, has been received in the Bureau library. The author states in the preface that he believes that one of the needs of the present time is a better understanding of the origin of our business organization, its forms and its functions. He thinks also that far too little attention has, in the past, been paid to the period under discussion and that he will have rendered a service if he succeeds in stimulating further research and investigation. There is a chapter on the British Cotton Market, and another on the Organization of the American Cotton Trade. The bibliography is of much interest. 277 B85

### A Balanced Economic System

Thomas Nixon Carver is the author of a new book recently received in the library entitled *The Present Economic Revolution in the United States* (Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1925). The author dedicates the book "To those steady minds that have never lost their faith in the possibility of equality under liberty, nor been willing to accept equality without liberty, nor liberty without equality, as the final goal of democracy." The general editor, Henry Bass Hall writes as follows in the foreword:

"The economic changes now occurring in the United States are significant in their relation to the whole history of Western Civilization - as significant perhaps as the Industrial Revolution in England at the close of the eighteenth century. It is not mere chance that this present revolution is taking place in the United States before it begins anywhere else. Our stage was set for it in 1888. We were then the youthful giant in industry... Our immense industrial population was earning more in purchasing power than the industrialists of any other country.

"During the next thirty years this economic prosperity was not only maintained, but the discrepancy between earnings abroad and in the United States even increased, so that in the second quarter of the twentieth century, our people find themselves amazingly better off than those of other lands... What is the result? It is a change in social and economic conditions undreamed of even by our leaders of a single generation back."

Dr. Carver writes as follows: "Just what is going on in this country at the present time? Wealth is not only increasing at a rapid rate, but the wages of those we formerly pitied are rising, laborers are becoming capitalists, and prosperity is being more and more widely diffused. We are approaching equality of prosperity more rapidly than most people realize. What is equally important, we are working out this diffusion of prosperity for all classes without surrendering the principle of liberty which is embodied in modern democratic institutions... Just what is meant by economic equality? There are several different ideas. The most general and at the same time the most practical idea is equality of prosperity among occupations. Within a given occupation there may be great differences of prosperity, owing to differences in industry, personal skill, intelligence or training... There are real inequalities as between occupations, but these inequalities are in the main due to the congestion of certain occupations or the over-supply of men in them and the scarcity of men in other occupations. For forty years preceding the Great War we were importing manual laborers, literally by the millions. We were not importing any very large number of employers or capitalists. This alone tended to increase the competition for jobs in the manual trades and to increase the opportunities for employers to get laborers at low wages.

"While all these factors are to be taken into account in trying to determine whether there is equality of prosperity among the different occupations, and while there will always be difference of opinion as to whether such equality actually exists or not, there can be no doubt that such equality is desirable if it can be attained. It has always been the dream of real Americans that we should achieve this type of equality... No one who really understood the American people ever doubted that this was a genuine ideal or that it amounted to a passion with many of our ancestors..."

"In the main, the policies of the government were gradually brought into harmony with this noble ideal. The development of our public land policy is a case in point. It began as a means of replenishing an empty treasury, but it rapidly grew into a plan for giving free homesteads to all citizens who cared to settle on public land and build themselves farms and homes. Land was early made a merchantable commodity, entailed estates were made impossible in the lands that once belonged to the Federal Government, and most of the original thirteen States followed the national policy. Our system of free popular education is another case...

"One of the means of creating a balanced industrial system is undoubtedly an effective system of popular education. One of its chief functions, in an unbalanced industrial system, is to train people so that they may avoid the overcrowded and poorly paid occupations and enter the uncrowded and well-paid occupations...

"To summarize, it is the opinion of the present writer that a balanced industrial system would produce four important results: First, it would equalize prosperity among different occupations, though not among different individuals within the same occupation. Second, it would equalize bargaining power as between classes of bargainers, though individual differences in bargaining power would remain. Third, it would tend to diffuse power as well as prosperity among all classes, giving those who follow one trade or occupation approximately as much control over business as would be possessed by those who follow any other occupation. Fourth, it would work a profound change in our educational system by relieving it of what is now one of its chief functions, namely, that of redistributing our population occupationally by training men to avoid the overcrowded and to seek the uncrowded occupations." 280 C25R

#### Biography - Felix Renick

Professor Charles Sumner Plumb of the Ohio State University wrote a sketch of the life of Felix Renick, which was printed in the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly in January, 1924. It has since been reprinted as a pamphlet and is now in the library. Felix Renick was a notable figure in the pioneer days of Ohio and performed a great service to agriculture by the improvements he made in American shorthorn cattle. 120 R29

#### Biography - Thomas Dekker

Thomas Dekker was born in London about 1570. He was a writer of plays which portrayed the economic conditions of his times to a remarkable degree. He also wrote many pamphlets which showed the agrarian situation and its attendant miseries during the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. He was especially concerned with the enclosure evils. The library has recently acquired the doctor's thesis of Kate L. Gregg, entitled Thomas Dekker: A Study in Economic and Social Backgrounds (Univ. of Washington publications. Language and literature v. 2, no. 2, July, 1924.) 120 D36

#### Flexible Tariff in England, 1841.

Foreign Corn; The Cost Price of Producing Wheat in Some Foreign Countries is the title of a pamphlet recently acquired by the library. It bears the date 1841 and is a plea that in the political crisis in which Englishmen

found themselves at that date they exercise their judgment in action and not in talk. The author contends that the point at issue was not free trade "abstractedly admitted to be a correct principle on every side, but the quantity and the extent of protection which our interests require... The principle of protection to agriculture as well as to everything else in need of protection being fully conceded by Ministers to their opponents, the question at issue between the two parties refers to the extent of its application and not to its truth..."

"This may not be the fittest opportunity to discuss the merits of the present sliding scale of duties, or to point out how well adapted it is to defeat the professed object of its operation; but he who maintains that the lowering of the duty at the inverse ratio of price is a wrong principle, either has not bestowed sufficient attention to the subject, or has lost the fair exercise of his reason from political excitement. To say that the principle of a sliding scale is, in itself, adapted to cause large and rapid fluctuations, is just as absurd as to hold, that the use of a make-weight is calculated to destroy equilibrium. If to a price which has risen high from natural causes, is added a duty, whether fixed or otherwise, whether moderate or not, there can be no question that said price will be higher. On the contrary, if a high duty be added to a low price, the protection will be effectual; and in either case the tendency of the sliding scale is to maintain steadiness, as far as it is possible, to keep steady the price of an article, more liable than any other to the vicissitudes of seasons. Even the present law, defective as it now is held to be on all sides, has, to some extent, checked fluctuation; and has, since its enactment, kept the extreme prices of corn within narrower limits than those of coffee, sugar, cotton, and even iron, the last of which has nothing to do with the state of the atmosphere." An interesting detailed statement is given showing the "Invoice cost of 175 Kotsersh of first sort Polish wheat, bought within the district of Balta, Government of Podolia, in the Ukraine, carried by oxen or by horses to Odessa, and thence shipped to the Port of London." 284.3 F76.

### Handbook of Economics

John A. Todd, the well known English authority on cotton statistics, is the author of *The Science of Prices: A Handbook of Economics*, recently received in the library. The author calls the work "a text-book...dealing with the general theory of Economics - the Theory of Value." He also says that his "first object is to make plain to his readers what Economics is, namely, the systematic study of their ordinary business and social relations, in the world in which they make and spend their money. The essential point is to make it clear that there is a science of everyday life; "that life is not merely a chaotic welter of brute force, euphemistically called Competition, but that the modern individualist system is really a system which has on the whole, during the past century and a half, worked for the good of the one class of the community to which all belong, namely, the consumers. While industrialism brought great evils in its train, it is now certain that many of these evils are not inherent in the system, but can and will be eliminated, or at least greatly modified, as the world gets to understand the system better."

"The next point is to show the student how to apply the principles of this system to the conditions of his own life; he must learn how to handle everyday problems, where to get hold of the facts, and how to test and prove them. Economic materials are often in the form of statistics, which are no

less useful as a safeguard against the danger of hasty generalisations than they are dangerous as pitfalls to the unwary or prejudiced. The statistics given in the Appendix are therefore meant as examples to be used in teaching the student how to handle statistics. In the same way some outlines of the historical side of Economics have been included, simply as an illustration of the fact that every economic problem has a history, and to show the student where such history may be found, and how it is to be handled and studied." 284.3 T56

### John Galsworthy on Government Wheat Control

The Living Age for Oct. 31, 1925, reprints two articles from the London Times for Sept. 20 and Sept. 27 respectively. The first is by Sir Philip Gibbs under the title Is England Done? and the second by John Galsworthy is headed A Negative Answer. Both authors agree that the state of England is indeed "parlous" and John Galsworthy thinks that the war has not so much produced as revealed this state. He also thinks that England will never again be able to compete with Europe as she did - in fact that economically she is now divorced from Europe. He thinks that England's hope lies outside Europe in the markets of countries where English standards of wages and living prevail - in America and the British Commonwealth of Nations. He thinks that conditions can be remedied only by national unity in big measures definitely adopted and long sustained. Tinkering is not only idle, it's stupid. He conceives that there are two underlying measures of remedy. The first is the expansion of emigration to the Dominions (as to the methods of which he has some interesting ideas). The second is that the Government should control wheat, "should take over all dealings in wheat, purchasing at world-price all the overseas wheat needed by our population; purchasing also all home grown wheat at a price such as tempts the farmer to grow it, and selling it to the public at the average between the two prices. Considering that since the war the price of the quartern loaf has remained very much the same, while the price of wheat has varied between eighty shillings and forty-two shillings per quarter, this would not raise the price of bread, but it would, year by year, raise the acreage under wheat. On the increase of the acreage under wheat depends the growth of agriculture as a whole; make wheat securely profitable once more and all else shall be added unto it... You cannot play fast and loose with farming, as was done after the war; policy must be continuous and must guarantee reasonable profit to the reasonable farmer... Certainty of profit alone will cause recovery; and recovery in agriculture... is an absolute necessity for England now." Pamp. coll. England.

### Marketing Agricultural Products

(1) Prof. James E. Boyle of Cornell is the author of a volume entitled Marketing of Agricultural Products (McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1925) recently received in the library. The author, in the preface, states that the purpose of the book is (1) to set forth the so-called fundamental principles of marketing and (2) to present the efforts and achievements in putting these principles into effect. First place in the book is given to consumer demand, because the author feels that this is the correct starting point for the study of agricultural marketing. "Stress is naturally laid on quality and standardization of

product. The author holds that there is no way to get a good price for a poor product. A great deal of attention is paid to our present large cooperative movement and both its advantages and limitations are ... pointed out." 280.3 B69

(2) John Truman Horner, Professor of Economics at the Michigan State College, is the author of a volume recently received in the library entitled Agricultural Marketing. It is one of the new Wiley Agricultural Series, edited by J. G. Lipman of Rutgers College, New Jersey, and published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. In the preface the author states the scope of the volume as follows:

"There have been two outstanding methods of presenting the problem of marketing: one is an explanation of the different agencies or the market machine; the other, an explanation of the market services. No single treatise on marketing can possibly cover the entire field... This book is an attempt to shed some light upon the problem in which so many of us are interested. It is not a complete discussion of the subject, but rather, it is hoped, a contribution which will aid the student and the general reader to secure a better understanding of the economics of marketing... In this book, no attempt has been made to explain the existing market machinery, to give statistics as to market costs, to make the treatment all-inclusive, or to deal with agricultural cooperation. Special emphasis has been placed upon the problems of demand, producing for the market, market wastes, and the economic bases of the marketing services." 280.3 H78

### Mexico

The University of Texas Studies in History no. 2 is entitled Some Aspects of the Agrarian Question in Mexico. The author is Helen Phipps who writes in the preface "The present work is not an attempt to consider the origin and development of the agrarian problem of Mexico in detail. It represents merely an effort to ascertain, from a survey of the economic institutions of the country, some of the causes for the turbulence of its history since the separation from Spain. Political issues do not sufficiently explain the state of upheaval which - with the exception of the thirty years or so of outward calm during the presidency of Porfirio Díaz - prevailed in Mexico for a century and more after 1810.

"Since the acute agrarian situation that existed in 1910 had developed principally during the period subsequent to the attainment of independence, it may seem that an unduly large proportion of space has been devoted to the colonial era. The explanation of the apparent disproportion in treatment is to be found in the persistence of colonial institutions that during three centuries had become firmly incorporated in the life of the people, and also in the lasting influence of those institutions upon the entire economic history of the country. How deeply rooted they are is evident from the fact, for example, that within the present decade it has been found advisable after a century of experimentation to re-establish in Mexico, at least temporarily, some features of the system of land tenure that existed under Spanish rule." 282 F55

## Profits

The library has received Profits by William Trufant Foster and Waddill Catchings, one of the publications of the Pollak Foundation for Economic Research. The authors write as follows in the preface: "Why must industry as a whole slow down because of 'overproduction,' when millions are suffering from 'underconsumption?'... The main reason, plainly, is that in a period of increased productivity the time soon comes when the people who want the goods which have already been produced lack the money wherewith to buy them. This answer, however, merely brings us to another question, and one which appears to baffle the entire financial and industrial world: What causes this deficiency of purchasing power?... The concluding section of this book... is an attempt to answer that question. The answer is based no less on Money, a book issued two years ago by the Pollak Foundation for Economic Research, than on Parts I to IV of Profits... All that we have said in Money and in Profits leads to this main conclusion: Through no fault of any one class or any one agency, the established and approved methods of financing increased production and accumulating savings prevent the progress which otherwise might readily be made toward higher standards of living. The reason is partly because the total disbursements of industry in a period of expansion at first yield consumers more than enough money, and presently much less than enough money, to buy the additional output at the prevailing price-level; and partly because consumers, under the necessity of saving, do not spend even as much as they receive. The inevitable result is overproduction or, as we prefer to call the malady, 'underconsumption.' Wherefore producers as a whole, in a money and profit economy, have no choice; they must curtail production. Thus prosperity engenders depression; and there is no possibility of sustained progress toward achieving the material basis for higher standards of living. What is the way out? That question will be uppermost in the minds of most readers; and they will be disappointed, no doubt, because we do not offer a definite answer. We venture no such answer at this time, partly because we regard an understanding of the problem as the first need; and we want nothing to stand in the way of an unbiased consideration of the problem itself... Moreover, the best way is not likely to be discovered until statistical research has made further progress in various directions... Far-reaching changes in the established order are sure to come, for the people are and ought to be dissatisfied. Moreover, they are becoming increasingly aware of their political power, and they are giving more and more thought to economic problems. Measures are sure to be taken for the purpose of removing the unquestionable defects of the present money and profit economy. The only question is whether these measures shall be taken intelligently."

It is of interest to note that the authors have offered a prize of \$5,000. for the best adverse criticism of their book. 280 F81

## Standards of Living

Social and Economic Standards of Living is the title of a book recently received whose author is Theresa S. McMahon, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Washington. A few excerpts from the last chapter follow:

"The evolution of social standards of living not only shows a shifting of social power, depending upon the changes made in wealth ownership, but the

increasing democratization of the higher social standards themselves. This has been brought about, as we have seen, by an increase in general wealth, and by the breaking down of social barriers through successful imitation...

"Some people see in the development of the democratization of social standards of living, the establishment of a political and industrial democracy. This supposition meets with decided obstacles. While political and industrial democracy may be attained, the realization of a social democracy will be effectively thwarted by the erection of new standards of social valuation. People do not want social democracy. The instinctive proclivity of men for emulation will cause them to seek new avenues of expression with the democratization of the old...

"A somewhat similar evolution will take place in the development of economic standards of living. We have seen how low standards were upheld as a means of promoting the greatest possible output in production goods. Next came the recognition of the need of feeding, clothing, and housing men and their families adequately to maintain, or to increase, their physical efficiency. At the present time the mental needs of the workingmen are taken into consideration. The motive force is the desire for profits. There are exceptional cases, it is true, where men are prompted by a desire to promote a greater degree of distributive justice, but in a competitively organized industrial society they constitute a minority.

"Economic standards of living have been set up, for the most part, by the employing classes, and the social scientists have cooperated with them in so far as they saw prospects of bettering the wage and working conditions of the working people. As economists, they were forced to acknowledge the importance of an increased production in order to make possible a fuller and better life for all, and when consumption of certain commodities whose significance was wholly social - using social in its narrower sense - implied decreased work efficiency, they realized that the productive loss was of national concern. For in its last analysis the promotion of the general welfare rests directly on the productive capacity of the nation. When a surplus is attained over and above what is necessary to maintain the physical efficiency of the people, two fundamental problems present themselves. The first calls for the distribution of the wealth produced; a distribution which will make possible the maintenance of the individual's work efficiency; and second, the distribution of the surplus so as to promote the greatest possible well-being.

"How is this to be brought about? In countries where the political power rests primarily in the hands of an hereditary governing class, a program for social betterment of the conditions of living of the people calls only for the enlightenment of the few who impose their will upon the many. A benevolent paternalism is thus attained.

"But where the political power is widely diffused among the people, a program of action to be effective must rest on the will of the people. The history of social legislation, having as its goal the regulation of work conditions, the protection of the weak in their various social relationships, and the setting up of educational standards, clearly shows the evolutionary development of a public mind...

"With the increasing diffusion of social control, - effective control rather than nominal, - there will be an apparent temporary lowering of social standards, using the term now in its broader sense of including only general well-being, rather than the standards of emulation of a class... But when it comes to the question of a wide range of knowledge essential to

the intelligent direction of the ideals of a people,... the new control will necessarily reflect a lower level of intelligence. For a time the trial and error method may prevail, to be superseded later by a delegated control to a new social leadership - the leadership of those who by virtue of their achievements are accepted as guides in the attainment of the common goal." 284.4 M28

### War and the Price of Wheat

A pamphlet bearing a London imprint and the date of 1800, whose author is J. Brand, has been recently received in the library. Its title is: "A Determination of the Average Depression of the Price of Wheat in War Below that of the Preceding Peace; and of its Readvance in the Following; According to its Yearly Rates from the Revolution to the End of the Last Peace; with Remarks on their Greater Variations in that Intire Period." Tables are given which show the price of wheat for each year from 1688 to 1798, part of these being taken from Adam Smith's wealth of Nations by Rev. S. Hodson who copied and continued them in the appendix to his sermon on Dearness Occasioned by Scarcity not Monopoly. This "sermon" is often quoted throughout the pamphlet. The following is taken from it: "Until the year 1765 we had a great export trade of corn; since the year 1771 a constant import has been necessary for our supply; in the interval, the balance of import and export may be supposed to have been fluctuating... From what is stated the conclusion is, that the effect of war is to reduce the price of wheat; and it is probable, by parity of reason, that of all the prime necessities of life which are not directly taxed. And that the prices of wheat have exhibited in the time of no war any appearance of being affected by the circuitous effect of any taxes it has brought upon us." 284.3 B733.

### Why Your Food Costs More

Extracts from the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission on Food Prices (Great Britain) have been printed in a small handy-sized volume entitled Why Your Food Costs More (Scientific Press Ltd., London) The commission recommended that there should be "an organ of the State with statutory powers permanently in being to watch over the supply of wheat, flour, bread and meat" - this body to be called the Food Council. The Food Council should not be a new Department of State with a considerable staff. Instead it would consist of twelve members and would absorb the existing Food Department of the Board of Trade and would report to the President of the Board of Trade who would be responsible to Parliament for its actions. 284.3 G794.

## PERIODICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### The English Land System

Sir Henry Rew is the author of an article in the Edinburgh Review for October, 1925, which is entitled Our Changing Land System. In it, Sir Henry surveys not only the English land system from the earliest to the present time but also the literature of the subject including four volumes published in 1925; Land Tenure and Unemployment, by Frank Geary, The Land and Its People, by

Lord Ernle, *The Tenure of Agricultural Land*, by C. S. Orwin and W. R. Peel of Cambridge, and *England on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution*, by L. W. Moffit. The author writes as follows:

"The English land system, like the English constitution, is the product of political and social evolution. Revolutionary change has been covered by formal continuity, and things which are radically altered have retained their original names. The manor of the twelfth century was essentially unlike that of the twentieth century, but its external structure, in a large measure, survives. A different soul inhabits the same body. The metamorphosis has been so gradual that the process at any given time has been almost imperceptible. Each succeeding generation has believed its position to be static, and it is only in retrospect that movement can be discerned. It is evident, on a survey of the past, that development has been progressive and persistent, and it is worth while to attempt to distinguish the direction in which it is proceeding at the present time."

#### The Farmer's Future

An interview with Secretary Hoover is reported by John F. Fennelly in *Commerce and Finance* for Nov. 18, 1925, under the title *What of the Farmer's Future?* The following extract is taken from it: "Secretary Hoover's program for helping the farmer is based upon three simple fundamentals: a program that is entirely free from legislative panaceas, and which depends chiefly upon the healing effect of slow time. First, the elimination of unwieldy surpluses through the dissemination of crop statistics to the farmers, and the development of co-operative marketing; second, the maintenance of protective tariff schedule for agriculture; and third, the opening up of our inland waterways so as to bring the producer closer to the consumer. The first proposition of this trinity, namely, the attainment of independence through the control of production, is the most important of all, but it is an achievement that can only be reached by slow steps which may require many years... The Secretary emphasized the fact that, by control of production, he does not mean the establishment of agricultural monopolies... In the last analysis Mr. Hoover does not think that any agricultural monopoly can be permanently successful. 'Any attempt to increase prices of perishables over fair levels immediately results in a decrease in consumption; and in all agricultural commodities higher than fair prices at once stimulate production. There can never be a combination of farmers that can rob the public.'"

#### Wheat Marketing

John M. Chapman, Professor of Finance at Columbia University, is the author of two articles on the financing of wheat, in the *Harvard Business Review* for July and October respectively. The articles deal with the problems involved in financing the crop after the wheat has been delivered to the country elevator or warehouse by the grower. The second of the two articles deals with the remedies or proposals designed to assist the farmer, among them cooperative marketing.

NOTES

Gide, Charles

Les consequences de la hausse des prix au point de vue national, moral et intellectuel. (Revue d'Economie Politique, v. 39, no.4, July/Aug. 1925, p.801-812)

The author distinguishes between what he calls the natural increase in prices and the artificial. The first results from economic causes only as the increase in population, the multiplication of needs, the increase in wealth, all of which are in the natural order of events in a prosperous country. The artificial increase in prices results from inflation only, that is to say from the voluntary increase in money.

Hughes, Edward.

The English monopoly of salt in the years 1563-71. (English Historical Review, v.40, no.159, July 1925, p.334-350)

McBrien, D. D.

Economic content of early Mormon doctrine (Southwestern political and social science quarterly, v. 6, no. 2, Sept., 1925, p.179-191)

Mitchell, E. W. L.

The financing and marketing of the Niagara fruit crop. (Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association v. 32, no. 4, July, 1925, p.445-449)

An account of the experiences of the Niagara Peninsula Growers, Limited, in marketing their fruit crop. The author thinks that this is probably the most important attempt that has yet been made to establish the cooperative movement as applied to the fruit industry in Canada.

Municipal Research Bureau of Cleveland.

A report upon the operation of the municipal markets of the city of Cleveland. July, 1924. 280.3 1192

The South American west coast; an economic and financial survey of Chile, Bolivia and Peru. Published by the Commission on Commerce and Marine of the American Bankers' Association. 1925. 255 Am35

Weller, Arthur.

The agriarian reform in Esthonia from the legal point of view. 1922. 282 w45

*Mary G. Lacey*

Librarian  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

# THE B. A. E. NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY FOR THE STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 29, 1925.

LIBRARY SUPPLEMENT

No. 28

Features of this Issue: SIGNED REVIEWS BY O. C. STINE  
AND A. M. HANWAY.

## Agricultural History.

History of Agriculture in the Northern United States 1620-1860 by Percy Wells Bidwell, Economist of the U. S. Tariff Commission and formerly Assistant Professor of Economics at Yale University, and John I. Falconer, Professor of Rural Economy, Ohio State University. (Washington, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1925)

This work is the result of an intensive study of the agriculture of the period covered. The history of the agriculture of the Colonies and of the United States up to 1840 was written by Bidwell and that from 1840 to 1860 by Falconer and edited by Bidwell. The author of the first part enters directly into a description of the agriculture of the Indians as observed by the first Europeans and the activities of the first settlers in building homes, clearing land, and planting the first crops. A chapter is devoted to the early importation and management of livestock. This is followed by a chapter on farm labor, equipment for farming, land utilization, and later by a chapter on land tenure. Changes in crop and livestock production, wages, labor conditions, use of machinery, and land tenure are traced by steps through the period covered. The Western movement of settlement and shifts in agricultural production are described showing the influence of natural conditions and distance from market upon types of farming. The influence of the prairies on the progress of agriculture is one of the most interesting chapters in the book. Western competition in production and growth of city demands for perishable products in the East upon eastern agriculture are also shown to be important factors in the agricultural development of the country.

The development of trade in agricultural products is traced from the beginning through the period covered by the study. The development of the foreign market for agricultural products and of transportation as a factor in marketing is well presented. It is clear from this study that the agriculture of the United States has never been solely a self-sufficing industry, and trade has always existed, first between different colonies and later between the different states, as well as with the West Indies and Europe.

The social side of farm life is not neglected. The chapter on farm management and household economy in the 18th Century contains sections dealing with

farm buildings, furnishing of farm houses, household industries, and the "versatility of the farmer." The chapter entitled "Organization and Education of Farmers" discusses the accomplishments of agricultural societies and the early development of agricultural schools. Another chapter deals with the development of means of diffusing agricultural information, including a brief sketch of the beginnings of agricultural journalism and of agricultural science.

Students will find this volume a valuable reference book. It contains many quotations from original sources. The general reader may find the many quotations tiresome but students will find them of great interest. It is well illustrated with cuts of farm machinery, charts of prices, and maps showing shifts in population and the distribution of crops. It also has an excellent bibliography which points the way to a large field of source material. One may not find in this volume all the information that he desires, but it contains much that will be of interest and of great value to the student of the economic development of American agriculture. O. C. Stine. 30.9 B47H

Another review of this book by Louis B. Schmidt of Iowa State College, may be found in the American Economic Review for December, 1925.

#### The Problem of Landlord and Tenant.

Das Pachtproblem (Kurt Schroeder, Leipzig, 1922) by Dr. August Skalweit, professor of Economics in the University of Kiel, has recently been received in the library.

One of the most important problems of German agriculture, and one that has been intensified by the depreciation of the currency, is that of the relation between ownership and tenancy of the farm. The author points out the advantages of both systems, dwelling on the greater interest of the owner in what is his, his natural desire for improvement not only in his own interest, but in order that he may hand down an unencumbered inheritance to his son. The tenant, on the other hand, is naturally interested only in an immediate return from the land. He will not make sacrifices for the sake of the future. And yet the owner will not always give the farm his personal attention. The tenant may be a better or a poorer farmer, but his enterprise is never completely a failure. From the social point of view the leasing of farms is advantageous. It keeps more people on the land and breaks up the small, exclusive groups. And so the author decides that the system of farm tenancy should be encouraged, at least to a certain extent.

A survey of the last forty years shows an increase in leased farms, not only in Germany, but in other countries, and particularly in England. Among the reasons given in the case of Germany are increased interest in industry and the adoption of intensive methods of farming. Such being the case, the question arises as to whether the conditions of the lease ought to be left to the individual judgment of the contracting parties, or be made subject to state control. Should the relations existing between landlord and tenant be on a sound, equitable basis, the contract is likely to endure even for generations, and the rent to remain reasonable. But in many cases the results

of the energy and initiative of the tenant are claimed by the landlord as increasing the value of his property, and so he feels justified in raising the rent. The tenant may wish to own a small farm of his own. But that is opposed to the interests of the large landowner, who refuses to sell. The growing poverty of the tenant reacts on the land, and the landlord is the loser in the end. The unrestricted leasing system has been carried ad absurdum, and it is time for the state to do something.

It was not till 1920 that the German government felt compelled to intervene. Urgent requests had been received that it should be made impossible for leased land to be arbitrarily taken away from a tenant and that unreasonably high prices should be made illegal. The Reichspachtschutzordnung of June 1, 1920, was intended to protect the interests of the small farmer and to enable him to retain undisturbed possession of his farm. An analysis of the measure follows, the author pointing out that its main fault is that it leaves out of consideration the fact of the depreciation of the currency which necessarily has a serious effect on rent paid in money. Moreover, the owner who receives a small rent cannot afford to make the necessary improvements on the land and buildings, and so the injustice is shifted from the tenant to the landlord. Nor has the expected lowering of land prices and hence of the necessities of life resulted. And so a cul de sac has been reached, and it would seem to be necessary to seek a new form of lease adapted to the new conditions. Farming on shares is suggested. This system is found in Europe, in Asia, in the new world, but seldom in the Teutonic or Scandinavian countries. Successful in France, it yet appears doubtful whether it would come to be adopted to any great extent in Germany. And yet the author thinks it worth a trial, mainly for the reason that united effort makes for greater profits and diminishes risk.

After discussing the payment of rent in kind, and dismissing it as impracticable, the author finally decides that the system of half payment in money and half in kind or its value is the only practical way out of Germany's difficulties.

Statistics are given showing the proportion of landlords and tenants in Germany in 1907, also short supplementary articles on share farming in the Rhine province and in France. A. M. Hannay. 282 Skl

#### NEW BOOKS

##### Agricultural Economics Projects

The library has recently received A Classified List of Projects Carried on by the Agricultural Experiment Stations, 1924-25. It was prepared by E. R. Flint of the Office of Experiment Stations and is an exceedingly valuable piece of work. This list shows that 235 projects relating to agricultural economics were carried on by the Experiment Stations during the fiscal year 1924-25. (1 Ex89) An account of the projects submitted since July, 1925, under the Furnell Act may be found in the Official Record for November 18, 1925.

##### British Empire

The Library has recently received The British Empire: A Study in Colonial Geography by Albert Demangeon, Professor of Geography at the Sorbonne. It has been translated from the author's L'Empire Britannique, 1923, by Ernest F. Row of London and published in this country by Harcourt, Brace & Company under the imprint date, 1925. 278 D39

## Commercial Geography

The Geography of Commerce by W. P. Rutter (London, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1925) has been recently received in the library. Some titles of the chapters follow: The leading natural industries; The World's chief agricultural products; The major economic regions of the world; The transport of goods by land, water and air. 278 R93

## Cooperation

Through the kindness of Mr. Elsworth, of the Division of Cooperation, the Bureau library has received the two pamphlets noted below:

American farm bureau federation.

Trend of judicial decision in cooperative marketing and compilation of authorities in cooperative marketing law, by Frank Evans, general marketing counsel. Chicago, 1925.

Deals with statutes, constitutional provisions and court decisions bearing upon cooperative marketing. 280.3 Am33T

Northern states' co-operative league.

First year book, 1925. An annual of consumers' co-operatives in the North Central states of the U. S. A. Fergus Falls, Free press, 1925. 280.29 N81

## Cooperation in Italy

The Co-operative Movement in Italy with Special Reference to Agriculture, Labour and Production is the title of "a short study" (136p.) by E. A. Lloyd recently received in the library. The author speaks of the book as "almost entirely descriptive," and says that it has been gleaned from many sources especially Il Fatto Cooperativo in Italia by ex-Minister Meuccio Ruini. There is a chapter on Cooperative Agriculture, and the University of Cooperation in Rome is described in the chapter on Cooperation and Education. 280.2 L772

## International Labour Office Inquiry into Production

Volumes 3, 4, and 5 of the International Labour Office's inquiry into production - Enquete sur la Production - have been received in the library. Volumes 1 and 2 were reviewed in the Library Supplement for April 1, 1924, and May 26, 1925, respectively. Volumes 4 and 5 consist of two parts each, averaging about 1,000 pages to a part.

Volume 1 of this report sets forth the scope of the inquiry, which was undertaken in 1920, the text of the questionnaire to which 27 Governments replied, and the actual replies (covering about 200 pages) to certain of the questions as to sources of information.

Volume 2 gives the facts as to general production of a large number of fundamental products, such as coal, petroleum, iron, copper, lead, zinc, aluminum, mercury, silver, gold, fertilizers, sulphur, rubber, cotton, wool, silk, flax, hemp, jute, sugarbeets and sugar cane, wheat, rye, corn, rice, and livestock. It also sets forth yield per workman in the different countries and the yield per "unit of surface" for sugar beets, wheat and oats, and yield per milk animal in a few countries.

Volume 3 has the sub-title "Explanation of the facts." It discusses the "crisis" in the markets of the world because of the rebellion of the consumers at the rise in prices, the "crisis" in transportation giving tables showing actual cost of transportation for passengers and merchandise in certain European countries, the "crisis" in financial matters, exchange rates being given for the principal countries of Europe from 1914 to April, 1924. Average prices are given for the years 1913-1921, and quarterly prices for 1919 to June, 1922, for a large number of commodities in the principal large markets of the world. Among these commodities are cotton, silk, wool, flax, jute, sugar, wheat, rye, corn, and rice.

Volume 4 gives the facts collected relating to labor, including the health of workmen, psychological and moral conditions, the opposition of laborers to a scale of wages proportional to output, reduction in length of working day, etc.

Volume 5 contains an enumeration of the measures taken by the various Governments replying to the questionnaire to keep up production in spite of the situation in which they found themselves, and to prevent unemployment. The scientific organization of production is discussed and the volume closes with fifty-three pages of general conclusions arrived at by the International Labour Office, on the basis of the returns to the questionnaire, as to remedies for the unsatisfactory economic situation.

The whole report, which consists of more than 7,000 pages, contains a wealth of exceedingly valuable material. It is not easy to use, however, because of the inconvenient arrangement and the lack of an index. It is to be hoped that a digest of the material arranged by subject and commodity may some day be furnished the student. In the meantime he will have to put forth a good deal of labor to be sure that he has obtained from the report all that it can furnish him on any subject. (International Labour Office, Geneva. Enquête sur la Production. Rapport général. 1923. 5 v. in 8) 280 In84

#### Land Settlement in England and Wales

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has recently issued Land Settlement in England and Wales, Being a Report of Proceedings Under the Small Holdings and Allotments Acts 1908 to 1919 for the period 1919 to 1924 (London, Stationery office, 1925). The scope of the report is defined as follows:

"The last Report on the administration of the Small Holdings Acts (dealing with the provision of small holdings as distinct from allotments, which form the subject of separate Reports) is for the year 1914... Since the 1914 Report... two special Reports have been issued. The first, published in 1918 (Cd. 9203), entitled 'Report on the Working of Small Holdings acquired under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908,' dealt with the measure of success attained by the small holders placed on the land by Local Authorities under the 1908 Act. The second Report, published as a Stationery Office Paper in 1923, dealt with 'The Present Position and Future Prospects of Ex-Service Men Settled on the Land in England and Wales.' With the exception of these two Reports, which, as already indicated, were concerned only with special aspects of the subject, no consecutive account has been published since 1915

1915 of the provision and management of small holdings by County Councils and the Councils of County Boroughs. It is the object of this Report to fill that gap. It may be desirable to explain at the outset that this Report is not concerned with the land acquired by the Ministry under the Small Holdings Colonies Act... The Report deals with the progress made under the Land Settlement (Facilities) Act, 1919, up to the 31st December, 1924, but the financial tables and statements have wherever practicable, been brought up to the 31st March, 1925." EF

### Refrigerated Beef, Mutton, and Lamb

The sixth of the Economic Series of reports being published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Great Britain has been received. It is entitled Report on the Trade in Refrigerated Beef, Mutton and Lamb (London, Stationery office, 1925). "This Report gives an account of the trade in refrigerated beef, mutton and lamb, a trade which has grown considerably in recent years and now supplies practically one half of the requirements of Great Britain. It suggests that the British meat producer is facing a competition which is rapidly changing and intensifying. A few years ago, he had the market to himself in supplying the better-class trade and in providing for the needs of rural districts and many provincial towns. This is no longer the case. He now has to compete with powerful organisations which bring a more or less standardised, if refrigerated, product from overseas to the very heart of rural Britain. Knowledge of the marketing and distributing machinery at the disposal of imported meat is now a natural background for any study of the marketing and distribution of home-produced meat supplies." EF

### Rural Economics

The library has recently received Dr. Paul L. Vogt's Introduction to Rural Economics which is designed as a textbook for high schools. The author writes as follows in the preface:

"...If the farmers of to-morrow are to be equipped to deal intelligently with the problems that have come upon them so rapidly in recent years, it will be necessary to provide training in rural economics in addition to what is already offered to at least those who go through the high schools and to those who attend the shorter course at agricultural colleges...

"This book is an attempt to meet the need of those who cannot go through the longer training given by the four-year agricultural college... The rural population is justified in viewing its particular economic problems in relation to its own welfare and the entire organization of industry. It is justified in expecting that textbooks will be well balanced and that those intended for use in agricultural schools as well as in educational institutions in urban centers will give due attention to rural economic problems. The general principles of economics can be explained by illustrations taken from farm life as well as those from business organizations. Although this book is written primarily to meet the need of those who will remain on the farm, it is not forgotten that some of the students in rural high schools and short courses will doubtless go into urban business. The principles presented are essential to the economic training of this type of students as well."

## Social Organizations Engaged in Rural Work

The library has recently received a volume entitled "Social Organizations Working With Rural People, by Walter A. Terpenning, Professor of Sociology at the Western State Normal School of Kalamazoo, Michigan. The author writes as follows in the preface: "This study undertakes, in two typical rural counties, a comprehensive investigation of the work of all the important social organizations working with actual farmers. Chapter I is a discussion of the rural social needs which are not met without co-operative effort. Chapter II is an attempt to measure the success of the various organizations in meeting these needs. Chapter III is a criticism based upon personal observation of the activities of the agencies studied and upon the discussions of both officers and laymen interested in the work of such agencies. Chapter IV is concerned with the general trend of rural social organization and offers some tentative positive suggestions as to methods of improving such organization." 281.2 T27

## State Ownership of Land

The Tenure of Agricultural Land, by C. S. Orwin and W. R. Peel, (London, Cambridge Univ. press, 1925. 76p.) has been received in the library. The authors state in the preface that the little volume is an attempt to give the question of "State ownership of land (which has nothing whatever to do with State control of agriculture)... dispassionate consideration as a great economic problem having no necessary connection with the aims and objects of any one of the political parties of the State."

The following is taken from a review of the pamphlet signed by E. C. Lindeman which was published in the New Republic for Dec. 16, 1925:

"...This book will not be soon forgotten. Its authors have enjoyed the rare fortune of producing the results of research at the exact moment of public need. By virtue of a curious inversion in cause and effect, people invariably become interested in agriculture when the ailments of industry are worst. At the moment there are more industrially employed in England than the total of agricultural producers; consequently agricultural reform is in ascendency. Lloyd George and the Liberal party base their mutual hopes on the current popularity of land policies, and it is not too much to prophesy that in the next general election the agrarian issue will become more important than at any time since the days of the Corn Laws... This book provides adequate historical backgrounds, sets forth a graphic problem to be solved, employs rigorous logic in analysis, and proposes a reasonable though radical remedy - all within the compass of seventy-six pages. From the viewpoint of research and the growing conviction that investigators must take cognizance of the consequences of their facts, this performance sets a new and admirable standard. Its chief interest for American readers will, however, radiate from its conclusions and not from its method.

"Outside such areas (land owned by counties, towns, cities, boroughs, urban districts and town planning corporations) the proposal is, say Professors Orwin and Peel, 'that all lands, speaking generally, should be acquired by the state.' The state is to purchase all land (excluding the above and additional

## Alabama Farm Economics

The library has just received volume 1, no. 1, of a new periodical entitled Farm Economics. It bears the date December 1, 1925, and the statement that it is issued by the Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, State Board of Agriculture and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.

The first issue states that "it is to be published regularly and will contain information relating to farm prices, the crop and livestock situation, and facts about Alabama agriculture." It contains average prices paid to farmers in Alabama in September, October, November, 1925, November 1924, and monthly average 1910-1914 (5-yr. average) with the index number for each commodity. Forty-seven items are listed including crops; livestock; and poultry products. These figures were supplied by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. For these same dates the following index numbers are given: Weighted average index numbers of prices of Alabama farm products; Index numbers of wholesale prices in U. S., all commodities; Index numbers of wholesale prices in U. S., non-agricultural; purchasing power of Alabama farm products in terms of non-agricultural commodities.

In addition to the tables there are brief comments on the farm price situation in Alabama with notes on important increases and decreases in the prices of certain farm products.

## Federal Farm Loan System

Professor R. D. Kilborne, of the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration, Dartmouth College, is the author of an article in the November, 1925, issue of the Bankers Magazine entitled A Review of the Operations of the Federal Farm Loan System. Prof. Kilborne describes briefly the history and organization of the system and compares the actual results with what it was expected to accomplish. He says that it was expected (1) to reduce and equalize interest rates paid by farmers, (2) to encourage the growth of cooperation, and (3) to reduce farm tenancy. He thinks that the system has accomplished the first of these, but has failed to accomplish the other two.

## The Netherlands

The Times (London) Trade and Engineering Supplement for Nov. 14, 1925, is devoted to the Netherlands. It contains many articles of interest, among them the following: Farming in Holland, Dutch Agriculture, Margarine Industry, Agricultural Development of the Netherlands East Indies, Rubber Growing in the Netherlands East Indies, Java Sugar Industry, Tobacco in Java and Sumatra.

## Sugar

Foreign Affairs for January, 1926, contains an article on Sugar by F. Schneider, Jr., financial editor of the New York Sun, which discusses the influence of that commodity on the development of world commerce. The author writes as follows:

"The sugar industry furnishes interesting evidence...of the limitations of the protective system as applied to internationally produced raw materials. Our high sugar tariff has been no safeguard for the domestic producing and refining industries against the cycles of depression that run over the world. In fact, there is reason to suspect that the industry's present troubles have been augmented by the tariff, which has stimulated domestic production at a time when the rest of the world has been working up to a surplus. Sugar, after all, is a highly competitive commodity. Its production is spread widely over the world, its consumption is sensitive to prices, and substitutes for its use exist and are being developed. Fluctuations between prosperity and depression are severe. The labor problem involved in its production is a difficult one. It would seem the part of wisdom to let the tropics carry this burden, and obtain our reward in supplying the tropics with the things that nature has best fitted us to produce."

Notes.

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A manual of problems and tables in statistics with notes on statistical procedure. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1925. 251 M62

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American tobacco and French politics 1783-1789. (Political science quarterly, v.40, no.4, p.497-516, Dec. 1925)

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